

Unit 1: Getting Started

Welcome to *Victim Impact: Listen and Learn*. This program will help you to learn about the impact of crime on victims. You will have opportunities to learn information and skills that benefit you. The program challenges you to begin to focus on other people...people you harmed. This is not a class about sentencing laws or offender rights. The focus is on victims. Although you may already think about the people whom you have victimized, you may not know what it feels like to be victimized yourself. During this program, you will participate in activities, watch videos, and hear victims speak. You will see and hear directly from victims about how their lives have changed.

This program consists of 13 units, built around 10 core crime topics: property crime, assault, robbery, hate and bias, gang crime, sexual assault, child abuse and neglect, intimate partner violence, drunk and impaired driving, and homicide. Each unit will take approximately 2.5 hours to complete. In this first unit, the facilitator will explain what the program is all about and go over the program objectives and ground rules for participating. The facilitator will have you sign the class contract and take a pre-test, which will be administered again at the end of the program. The second unit will introduce the concept of victim impact through class discussion and a series of group activities. During the remaining weeks, the program will cover the 10 core crime topics.

Here are some thoughts and feelings you may be experiencing:

*I don't know
how my actions
hurt someone.*

*It was a
victimless crime.*

*I'm the victim, I
got caught.*



These are my thoughts and feelings about starting this program:

You are not the first person to wonder, "What will I learn in this class?" After taking the class, many offenders have the attitude, "This is the most important program I have completed. What can I do now?" As you participate in this class, you too may change your thinking about crime and victimization. This class is just the start. If you find yourself asking, "What now?" other programs are available that handle the following issues:

- Restitution
- Community service
- Restorative justice
- Counseling
- Life skills
- Substance abuse
- Parenting



This is what I hope to gain from this class:

Offenders need to know what they interrupted in my life.

— Cheryl Ward-Kaiser, homicide/robbery survivor