Activity

Warning, Warning

Grades: 3–5, 6–8

Overview
An outsized insect model was one way of directing attention to an urban health problem. Explore potential dangers and risks with kids and ways that public awareness could be increased. Have children construct a plan of action.

Background
The mosquito model was first made to warn the people of New York City that the dangers of mosquito-borne malaria were giant, not small!

Discuss with your children:
How do we communicate dangers to the public today?

What mediums can we use to tell the public about the dangers of smoking, drunk driving, or swine flu, to name just a few? Some mediums remain the same: articles, posters, word of mouth. Others are, of course, different: TV commercials, YouTube videos, Facebook.
Divide your students into groups. Challenge them to choose an issue or public danger they would like to affect and to come up with a plan for how they would communicate their message to the public.

Encourage them to think local. Is there a dangerous intersection near the school? Do local residents ignore storm warnings? Are nearby plants or factories using safe practices? Have children construct a plan of action.

- Subjects:
  Language Arts, Science, Insects, Communications, Risk and Danger