

Evaluating Nonviolence as a Method of Social Change
Student Worksheet 3-2

SIX PRINCIPLES OF NONVIOLENCE

Fundamental tenets of Dr. King's philosophy of nonviolence described in his first book, Stride Toward Freedom. The six principles include:

- (1.) Nonviolence is not passive, but requires courage;
- (2.) Nonviolence seeks reconciliation, not defeat of an adversary;
- (3.) Nonviolent action is directed at eliminating evil, not destroying an evil-doer;
- (4.) A willingness to accept suffering for the cause, if necessary, but never to inflict it;
- (5.) A rejection of hatred, animosity or violence of the spirit, as well as refusal to commit physical violence; and
- (6.) Faith that justice will prevail.