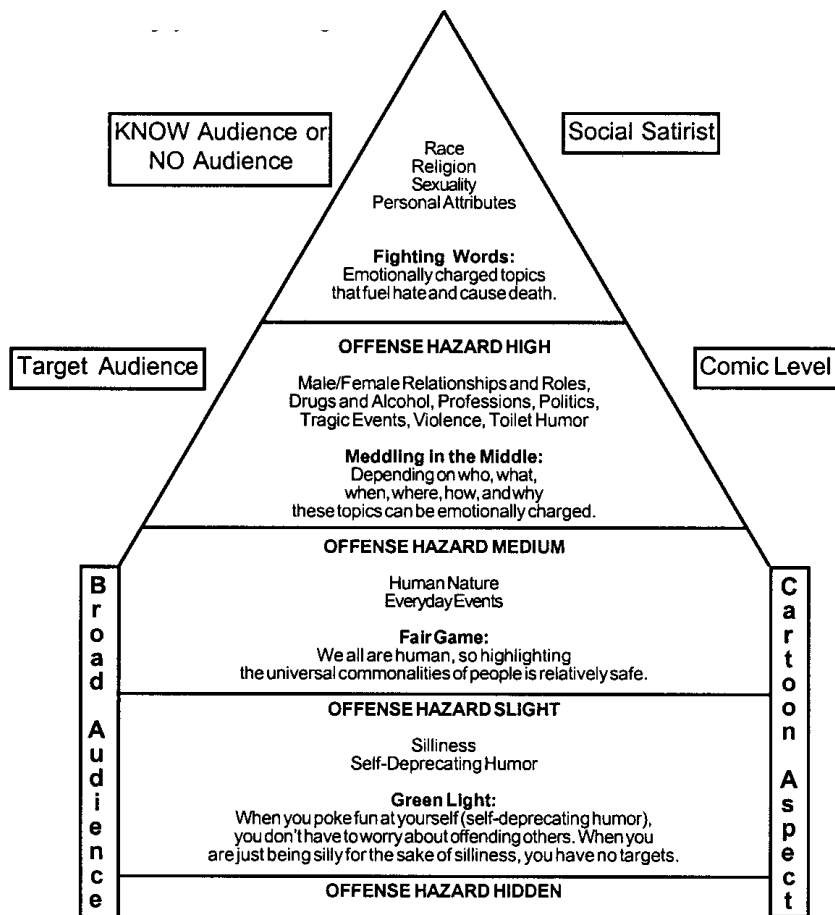


HUMOR AWARENESS—A Guideline for Leaders

Consider two things when you tell a joke: your **audience** and your **comic ability**. Social satirists (using humor to make a point) are equipped with tools to joke in the top of the triangle. Most of us, however, are not satirists. If we joke about topics in the top of the triangle, we better KNOW the audience (family, close friends, etc.). Joking about race and sexuality is not in itself "bad," but telling racist and sexist jokes, even with family and friends is "bad." So, in the ideal world, jokes about topics in the top of the triangle are appropriate for NO AUDIENCES. The safest venture is staying in the bottom two levels of the triangle, especially when considering that school audiences are very broad in scope. In the middle of the triangle, you find topics that, when presented at the comic level to a target audience (a specific group of people with a common interest or bond) you can be humorous without a great risk of offending. The key is knowing **what** your joke is about, **whom** you are telling it to, and **why** you are telling it.

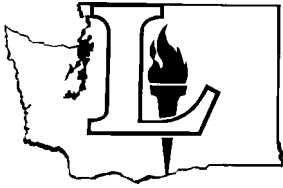


Pre-Performance Humor Checklist

- ✓ Identify the actual or symbolic targets ("the butts") of your jokes. Are these truly things to laugh at in your setting?
- ✓ What are the ratings of your jokes? (G--PG--PG-13--R--X)
- ✓ Is the rating appropriate for the setting and audience?
- ✓ Do your props or characters perpetuate hurtful stereotypes regarding race, ethnicity, gender, age religion, sexual orientation, disability, socio-economic condition, etc.?

Concept developed by:

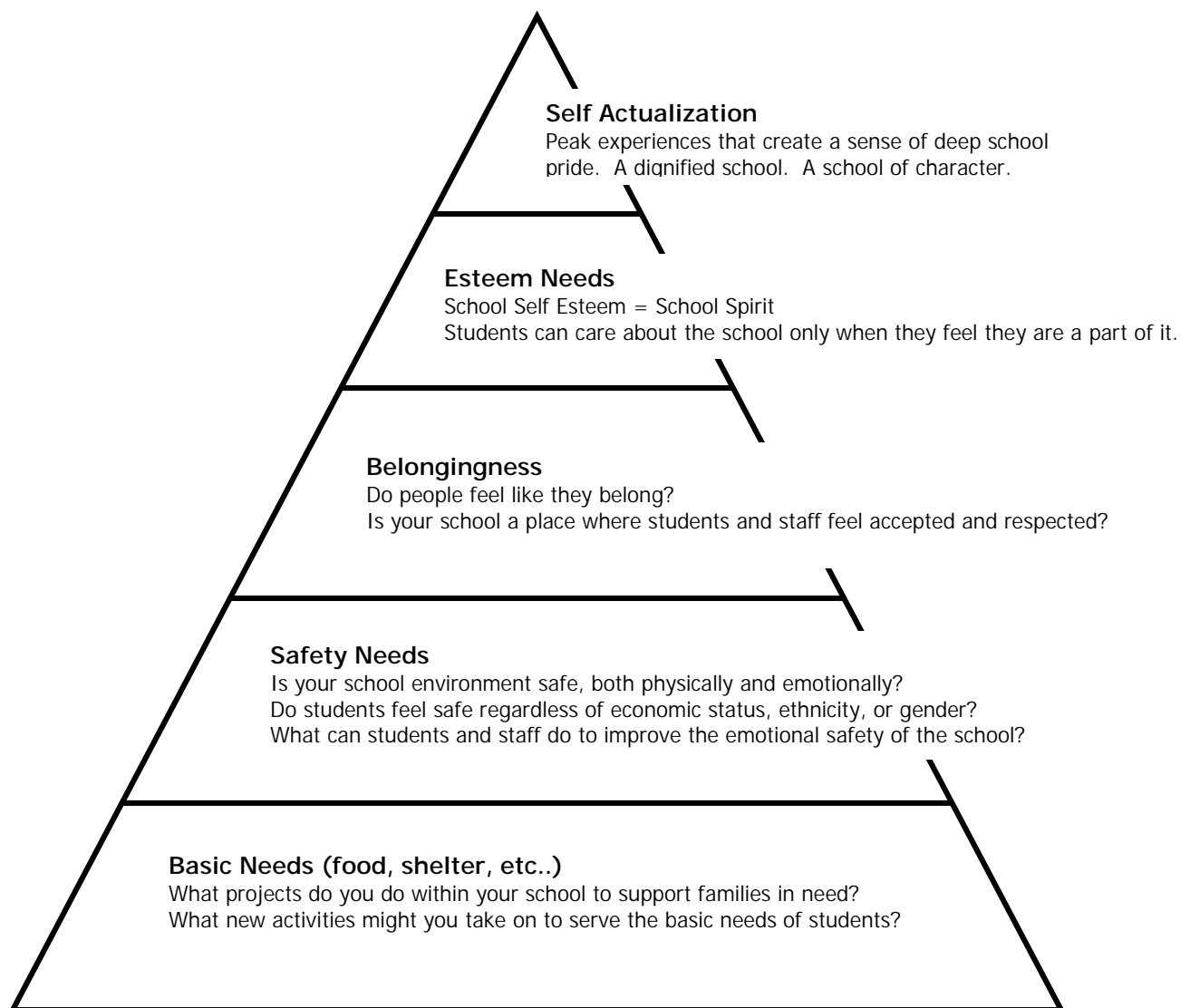
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Washington Student Leadership

a division of the Association of Washington School Principals

School Climate and Maslow's Hierarchy of Needs



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