Activity Details

Victorian Curriculum

Health & PE  Examine the benefits to individuals and communities of valuing diversity and promoting inclusivity VCHPEP132

Capabilities VCICCB014

Time  40 minutes

Levels  7 & 8

Equipment  • a Stepping out card for each student
            • Stepping out Teacher reference sheet


Purpose

To look into and challenge assumptions about sexual diversity.

Teaching notes

This activity allows students to experience what it might be like to be gay, lesbian or bisexual in our society. It requires a supportive classroom environment, as putting themselves into someone else’s shoes, especially if they have not considered the implications before, can be challenging for students.

Please note: An extended version of the Stepping out activity is included in the Activity pack and can be used for Years 7-10.

Procedure

1. Clear a space in the centre of the room. Ask the students to form a line across the centre of the room shoulder to shoulder, facing you. Students will need space to move backwards and forwards.
2. Distribute a card to each student, asking them not to show it to anyone else. Students are to imagine being the person in the scenario given to them.
3. Explain that you will ask a series of questions and they have to decide if the answer is ‘yes’ or ‘no’ for their character. They should take a step forward for ‘yes’ and a step back for ‘no’ and stay in place if they are not sure.
4. When answering questions, students are to imagine that everything in their life is the same (same family, same friends, same religion/spirituality etc.), only their identity may be different. Explain that students may not have all the information for each scenario so they will have to base their responses on assumptions.
5. Ask the Stepping out questions and allow time for students to respond.

Debriefing

• Ask the students closest to the front to reveal their character. Do the same for students at the back. Work towards the middle until all students have revealed their characters.
• Encourage the students to verbalise how they felt about the exercise and what they learnt from it.
• Draw out differences for any students who had the same scenarios. Ask the students to reflect on how life opportunities may feel limited for some same-sex attracted young people because of their exposure to homophobia and/or heterosexism.
• Discuss the safety and supportiveness of your school community in terms of disclosure and support of students with diverse sexual orientations. Ask students to suggest any changes that the school could implement to increase safety.
A married woman

A bisexual boy in a steady relationship with a girl
A married man

A young lesbian
A young gay Asian boy

A gay youth
A 13 year old girl with a boyfriend

A young transgender person
An ‘out’ gay captain of a football team

A 16 year old boy who has many casual partners
A year 12 boy with a boyfriend

An ‘out’ young lesbian who is a successful television star
A heterosexual girl

A 16 year old girl who has many casual sex partners
Stepping out: teacher reference sheet

Ask students the following questions:

1. Could you talk to a parent/carer or a close relative about your relationship?
2. Could you invite your partner home?
3. Could your partner be included in any of your family gatherings, like birthdays, weddings or New Years’ Eve parties?
4. Would your family feel okay if you started introducing your partner to their friends as your girlfriend/boyfriend?
5. Would people who knew about your relationship feel comfortable having you as their babysitter?
6. Would you take your partner to your school formal?
7. Would you talk about your boyfriend/girlfriend with a close friend on the bus?
8. If you went out publicly, would you feel you could give your partner a kiss and a hug?
9. Could you easily find other couples like you if you wanted to go out as a group?
10. Would you be confident you wouldn’t get put down or physically hurt by others because of the relationship you are in?
11. Could you talk to the leader of your church youth group if you were having problems in your relationship?
12. Do love scenes in TV shows and movies often show relationships like yours?
13. Do you have teachers, coaches or family friends who you know have the same sexual orientation as you?
14. Do you know four famous Australians with the same sexual orientation as you - pop stars, sports people, politicians, TV personalities?
15. Are you able to be open with your doctor when he/she talks to you about contraception?
16. Could you easily get safer sex information if you needed it?
17. Could you get married in Australia?