

Activities

1. Warm up

Display warm up as bell work.

Prompt: Define the word *stereotype*, in your own words. Please give a definition, not an example.

2. Introduce lesson

For these next few lessons we will be learning about decision making, and how good decision making can help us in our relationships and in taking care of our health. Today we will be talking about gender stereotypes. This is the first lesson in a series of four lessons that focus on healthy relationships. Our beliefs about gender affect how we treat each other in relationships. This lesson is the foundation for the next three lessons, which focus on communication skills and sexual violence prevention.

3. Define stereotypes

Have the students define the term *stereotype*. Summarize their comments by providing the following definition: a stereotype is an assumption or widely held belief about an entire group of people.

To help students understand the concept of stereotypes, ask them for examples of stereotypes of teens. Conclude by stating that stereotypes are often hurtful and are never true for all members of a group.

Let's start with a brainstorming activity about stereotypes. Can someone give me a good basic definition of stereotype?

Great, a stereotype is an assumption or widely held belief about an entire group of people.

Now let's figure out a few things about stereotypes. What are some examples of stereotypes about teens? What do adults assume about teens? What about drinking and drugs? What about sex? (Be sure to include these stereotypes about teens: they are lazy, stupid, and all have sex, drink and use drugs.) Untrue. What is the purpose of leading teens to believe all adults think this way?

Are these stereotypes flattering? No. Usually stereotypes are hurtful. Even ones that seem harmless at first end up being harmful because we expect everyone in that group to have that characteristic.

Do you think there are teens who fit these stereotypes? For example, are there teens who are lazy or have sex? Of course! Does that make this stereotype true, then, for all teens? No.

These are some things to keep in mind today as we talk about gender stereotypes: stereotypes are often hurtful, and they are never true for all members of a group. As we talk about gender stereotypes today, we'll be discussing some of the hurtful assumptions, words and slurs that can come from these stereotypes. I want to remind