

Native STAND

Students Together Against Negative Decisions

EXPLORING VALUES & ATTITUDES

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JENNIFER JONES, MPH


UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS SCHOOL OF PUBLIC HEALTH

BRAINSTORM

What do you think is the most important thing to consider when answering sensitive questions from young people?



ACTIVITY: PICK A SIDE

- Teens should receive sex ed programs that are “Abstinence only”.
 - Sex before lifetime commitment/marriage is wrong.
 - Teens should have unlimited access to contraceptives.
 - Young people aren’t responsible enough to handle decisions about sex.
 - Teens know what love is.
 - Oral sex is not really sex.
 - In today’s society, it’s unrealistic to expect young people to wait until life commitment/marriage to have sex.
 - Teens who sext or post sexy pictures have low self-esteem.
 - Sexual orientation and gender identity should not be addressed in schools.
 - A young person who visits a clinic frequently for STD testing and treatment is unwilling to practice safe sex.
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WHAT DO THESE STATEMENTS REPRESENT?

OUR VALUES AND ATTITUDES




WHAT ARE VALUES AND ATTITUDES?

- Principles or beliefs that serve as guidelines to help us make decisions about our behaviors and life choices.



- Determined by many factors like: culture, history, personal experiences, perceptions, parents/guardians, friends, education, and religion.

WHAT WAS THE POINT OF THIS EXERCISE?

- **We have different values and attitudes...and so will your youth!**
 - **We come from a diverse background of experiences...no two people have walked the same path.**
 - **Holding true to our values is important; it makes us who we are!**
 - **At the same time, we need to be aware of those values and attitudes that could affect our teaching.**
 - **It's our job to remain objective in the classroom.**
 - **As educators and caring adults, we are modeling respect for this diversity of beliefs, values, and attitudes when we teach.**
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VALUES AND ATTITUDES...

Is there such a thing as value-free curriculum for teens that promotes healthy decision making around STDs, HIV, and teen pregnancy prevention?



NOT REALLY...

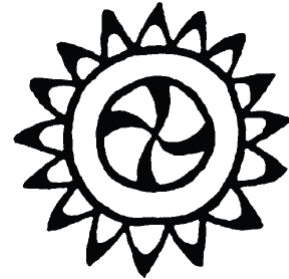
- It is not possible or desirable to provide value-free education

Core Elements

There are certain core elements that are the foundation of the curriculum; variations away from the core elements may impact the effectiveness of the curriculum.

Native STAND:

1. Promotes both sexual abstinence and risk reduction.
2. Focuses on both pregnancy and STD/HIV prevention.
9. Is “sex-positive,” teaching that sexual expression under the right circumstances is normal and healthy.



Excerpt from the Native STAND Facilitator's Manual-Implementation Guide

UNIVERSAL AND NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES

We **ARE** teaching values....
UNIVERSAL values

We are also helping them to *identify* those that are
NON-UNIVERSAL.



UNIVERSAL AND NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES

UNIVERSAL VALUES are those shared by
95% of families.



An educator should feel **COMFORTABLE** and has a
RESPONSIBILITY to teach these values.

UNIVERSAL AND NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES

NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES are those without consensus in the community.



An educator should **NEVER** teach or express a **PARTICULAR BELIEF** about such values. Providing information about the spectrum of beliefs or facilitating discussion about the issues is best practice.

UNIVERSAL AND NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES

- Forcing someone to have sex with you is wrong UNIVERSAL
- Knowingly spreading disease is wrong. UNIVERSAL
- Abortion NON-UNIVERSAL
- Sex outside of a lifetime commitment/marriage NON-UNIVERSAL
- Sex between children and adults is wrong UNIVERSAL
- Adultery is wrong UNIVERSAL
- Birth Control NON-UNIVERSAL
- Taking care of your reproductive health is important UNIVERSAL
- Cohabitation NON-UNIVERSAL
- What age it's acceptable to start having sex NON-UNIVERSAL
- It is safest and healthiest for school-age kids not to have sex UNIVERSAL

RECAP: NON-UNIVERSAL VALUES

- Birth Control
- Sex outside of a lifetime commitment/marriage
- Abortion
- What age it's acceptable to start having sex
- Cohabitation

Universal and Non-Universal Values

- When working with and for public schools and other agencies, we have an ethical obligation NOT to side with one family, one religious perspective, or one child over another.

Universal and Non-Universal Values

- Although it's inappropriate to *teach particular values* on NON-UNIVERSAL issues, that does NOT mean one cannot *teach about the issues*. It means that it must be done with respect for the diversity of opinion within the community.

So how do we do that?...



We'll practice that and
more tomorrow!

Questions?

Jennifer Jones

Jennifer.D.Torres@uth.tmc.edu