

GENDER EQUALITY

Lesson 5

A classroom resource that covers both local and global gender equality issues.

Grades 8 - 12
Canadian Edition

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Lesson 1:

Gender Equality

“Life’s most persistent and urgent question is, What are you doing for others?” – Martin Luther King, Jr.

“Act as if what you do makes a difference... it does.” – William James

“I am only one, but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something.” Edward Everett

Time:

Approximately 90 minutes – 120 minutes

Resources/Materials:

- Laptop and LCD Projector
- Student Handbook:
 - Reflective Journal
- Images/videos from action experience

Objectives:

In this lesson, students will:

- Document their action experience
- Reflect upon their action experience

Procedure:

1. Have students form into their action plan groups and review the information they have gathered (written notes and information from their Reflective Journal, images and/or videos from their action event, etc.)

Explain to students that they will show this accounting of their experiences in the form of a presentation: could take the form of a digital story, a poster presentation, a Prezi, etc.

Information on digital stories can be found at this site: <http://elab.athabascau.ca/workshop/digital-storytelling>

2. When done, allow time for each group to showcase their experience with their classmates and perhaps the wider school/community.

Have the audience respond to each presentation with comments/questions/affirmations.

3. Have students participate in a sharing circle. Focus on the following when sharing:

- How can an individual be an effective change maker?
- How does putting a plan into action assist changes to your school/community?
- What ideas do you have for future work on gender equality?

Remind students of the Sharing Circle parameters.

- Participants are sitting on chairs, on the floor, or standing in a circle. Explain that in a good circle, everyone can see into one another’s eyes by just turning their own head to the right and left. Have them adjust accordingly. (Move in to make the circle smaller or out to make it bigger.)
- Show the Talking Stick and review that it will be passed around the circle from person to person. Participants are only allowed to talk

when holding it, otherwise they are listening. Explain that there is always the 'right to pass' but encourage them to share.

- Review the Standards of Presence by listing them separately on small pieces of paper and distributing them out to the group. Allow each participant with a paper to read it aloud.

Standards of Presence

- You are the only person you can change. Use "I" statements. Own your feelings, perceptions, wants, etc. Recognize that this is an opportunity for you to exercise self-care by speaking your truth, being heard, and expressing more of who you really are.
- What you see, speak, share or hear that is personal or specific to another, remains with you. When sharing the essence refrain from being name specific and share your story in an honouring manner that relates to your own experience.
- Consider the possibility that there may be more for you to learn and benefit from, than what you're currently aware of, or have experienced.
- Focus your positive attention on the person sharing. Look for the gifts being shared (e.g. their openness, vulnerability, caring, etc.)
- Open your heart to the essence of what is being conveyed. Be willing to get "out of your mind" and release the need to evaluate, judge or compare.
- Refrain from side talk, cross talk or interrupting when someone is sharing.
- Always see what is positive and possible! Don't give any unsolicited advice, criticism or counselling.
- Be open to receiving acknowledgment and let it sink in. Simply respond with "Thank you".

