

Rights, Respect, Responsibility: Don't Have Sex Without Them

A Lesson Plan from *Rights, Respect, Responsibility: A K-12 Curriculum*

Fostering responsibility by respecting young people's rights to honest sexuality education.

NSES ALIGNMENT:

Students will be able to:

HR.12.CC.3 – Define sexual consent and explain its implications for sexual decision-making.

PS.12.CC.3 – Explain why using tricks, threats or coercion in relationships is wrong.

HR.12.INF.2 – Analyze factors, including alcohol and other substances, that can affect the ability to give or perceive the provision of consent to sexual activity.

TARGET GRADE:

High School – Lesson 3

TIME: 50 Minutes

MATERIALS NEEDED:

- Projector and screen
- Computer with Internet access and audio equipment
- White board and markers
- “Consent Scenarios A-F” (enough copies for each pair of students to get a scenario)
- **Homework:** “Putting It Into Practice: Getting and Giving Consent” (one per student)

ADVANCE PREPARATION FOR LESSON:

- Log into YouTube by signing in with your district ID and password.

- Be prepared to play the following videos:

“2 Minutes Will Change the Way You Think About Consent”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMtr-rUEmY

“Tea and Consent”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrxVavnQ

“Pitch Perfect 2 Trailer – The Ellen Show version”
www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBwOYQd21TY
(play a brief clip between 2:10 and 2:27)

- Print out the “Consent Scenarios A-F” and cut out each pair, making sure the correct Person 1 goes with the correct Person 2. Determine how many pairs there will be in your class and make several copies of each scenario so that there are enough for each pair to get one.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES:

By the end of this lesson, students will be able to:

1. Define the terms “consent,” “coercion” and “incapacitated.” [Knowledge]
2. Differentiate between a situation in which consent is clearly given and one in which it is not. [Knowledge, Skill]
3. Demonstrate an understanding of how giving and getting clear consent is part of a respectful relationship. [Knowledge]

A NOTE ABOUT LANGUAGE:

Language is really important and we’ve intentionally been very careful about our language throughout this curriculum. You may notice language throughout the curriculum that seems less familiar—using the pronoun “they” instead of “her” or “him,” using gender neutral names in scenarios and role-plays and referring to “someone with a vulva” vs. a girl or woman. This is intended to make the curriculum inclusive of all genders and gender identities. You will need to determine for yourself how much and how often you can do this in your own school and classroom and should make adjustments accordingly.

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PROCEDURE:

STEP 1: Explain to students that as they continue to grow older and mature, situations that they find themselves in might become more complex. Sometimes they might find it difficult to figure out the right thing to do. Some of these situations and decisions might involve consent. Ask students, **“What does the word ‘consent’ mean? What does it mean to ‘give consent?’”** Ask for a few students to respond, probing for the following concepts:

- It's when someone says they want to do something
- When someone gives permission to another person
- Saying “yes” to or being okay with something

Say, **“This seems like a pretty straightforward idea—but it isn't always. Let's take a look at one person's attempt to figure it all out.”** (2 minutes)

STEP 2: Play the video, *“2 Minutes Will Change the Way You Think about Consent,”* at www.youtube.com/watch?v=laMtr-rUEmY.

Ask for reactions to the video, then process by asking the following discussion questions:

- **The ConsentBot says her first attempt was “coercion.” What does that mean?** (Probe for getting someone to do something by threatening or forcing them.) **What did she do that was coercive?** Remind the students that **consent must be voluntary, which means a person has to want to give consent.**
- **When she goes to visit her friend, Jonathan, Jonathan is half asleep when she asks for his phone and he says yes. The ConsentBot says it's not consent because he's “incapacitated.” What does that mean?** (Probe for when someone doesn't have the capacity or ability to do things—or to say they want to do things). **Jonathan was asleep, so he would not have been completely aware of what he was saying. The same thing goes if someone were drunk or using drugs.**
- **What do you think of the example when she is in the library and asks the person wearing the headphones for their phone and they don't respond—and she assumes she has consent because that person didn't say no? Why isn't that the same as having consent?** (Probe for the importance of getting a clear “yes” or “no” from someone to know for sure whether you have—or have not—received consent.)
- **Has anyone ever been in a situation where they haven't wanted to do something, but a friend has said, “It's fine, just do it.” How has that felt? Why did the ConsentBot say it wasn't consent?** (Probe for the fact that the middle person seemed to have felt intimidated—meaning, pressured—to do it, even if he wasn't being pressured by the person asking for consent).
- **What did you notice in the last exchange, which the ConsentBot finally agrees is consent?** (Probe for the fact that she asked and he said yes, while also clarifying his conditions: “You can use my phone, but no texts or international calls.” She clarified by asking about his phone's game center, and he responded.) **The ConsentBot said that this was clear consent and it was also healthy, clear communication.**
(7 minutes)

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STEP 3: Say, “This video was about using someone else’s phone. Now, let’s take a look at a different video about another common item, tea.”

Show the “*Tea and Consent*” video at www.youtube.com/watch?v=pZwvrxVavnQ. After the video, ask “Are there any ideas about consent in this video that are similar to the previous one? That are different?” Ask students to summarize the key messages of the videos and write these on the white board.

Show the brief clip of “*Pitch Perfect 2 Trailer – The Ellen Show version*” www.youtube.com/watch?v=KBwOYQd21TY from 2:10 and 2:27. Ask the following discussion questions:

- **What did you just see?** (Two people flirting at a party, miscommunication.)
- **When he asked her if she wanted to have sex, how did she respond?** (She said she didn’t want to but then winked at him; what she said was a clear no but how she said it made him think she wanted to).
- **How do you think he was feeling then?** (Confused, hopeful, worried)
- **Did she give her consent to him to have sex?** (No)
- **What do you think he should do next?** (Walk away, ask her again, try something to see whether she’s interested).

Say, “The smartest thing he can do here is take her no as her answer. It doesn’t matter how she said it, but he has to go with what she actually said. This is also a good example of how talking about consent at a party—where there’s usually alcohol around—isn’t the best place or time to bring it up. What impact could alcohol or other drugs have on someone’s ability to give consent? What impact could alcohol or other drugs have on a person’s ability to clearly understand what someone is communicating to them? It’s good to remember that anything but a clear ‘YES’ means no.” (4 minutes)

STEP 4: Say, “We’re going to take a look now at what it’s like to ask for and give consent in a relationship.” Break students up into pairs. Say, “I’m going to distribute a ‘*Consent Scenario*’ to each of you. You’re going to work together to create and perform a brief skit—no more than 1–2 minutes—that you’ll share with the class. Please don’t tell the class what’s on your scenario, because you will demonstrate it during the skit.”

Break students into pairs. Distribute the “*Consent Scenarios*,” making sure each pair gets the correct Person 1 and 2. Tell them they have about 5 minutes to figure out how they will act out their scenario in front of the class and demonstrate consent. Remind them to use their decision-making and negotiation skills that they might have learned in previous lessons (7 minutes)

STEP 5: After about 5 minutes of working, check in to see whether the pairs are ready to present. Ask for a pair to volunteer to go first and have them come to the front of the room. Talk about what was presented, commenting on the clarity of consent given and received. Ask the next pair to go and continue until everyone has gone or as time allows. (22 minutes)

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Note to the Teacher: *Because more than one pair will have the same scenario, you can avoid repetition during the presentations by asking whether other pairs had different takes on the same situation.*

STEP 6: Ask the class to comment on what they saw in the various skits. In particular, note situations in which pairs assigned roles to each other based on gender role stereotypes and emphasize that everyone has the responsibility to make sure they have consent from another person, regardless of gender.

Say, **“Everyone has the right to say what they do and don’t want to do in a relationship. And we all have a responsibility to be clear about what we want and to listen to what the other person wants in order to have healthy, mutually respectful relationships.”**

Distribute and go through the *“Putting It Into Practice: Getting and Giving Consent”* homework sheet. (5 minutes)

RECOMMENDED ASSESSMENT OF LEARNING OBJECTIVES AT CONCLUSION OF LESSON:

The videos and discussion will fulfill Learning Objective 1. The paired communication scenarios will achieve Learning Objective 2. The homework assignment will achieve Learning Objective 3.

HOMEWORK:

Students will complete and hand in the *“Putting It Into Practice: Getting and Giving Consent”* homework sheet, which is a log of real-life situations in which consent was given or not given and their reactions to these situations.

Consent Scenario A

PERSON 1

You really, really like PERSON 2. You think they're totally hot and want to ask them out—but how? You feel like if you hold their hand they'll be more likely to say yes when you ask.

Consent Scenario A

PERSON 2

You're interested in PERSON 1. You don't know them very well, but you think they're kind of cute. You're also kind of shy and aren't really fond of being touched or public displays of affection (PDA).

Consent Scenario B

PERSON 1

You've been with PERSON 2 for three months and haven't had sex together, but you really think it's time. You love the other person, they love you, and everything you've done together up until now has been really good.

Consent Scenario B

PERSON 2

You've been with PERSON 1 for three months and haven't had sex together, but you really think it's time. You love the other person, and will do almost anything to keep the relationship going and make them happy. You just really are nervous about being naked and having sex. You like the way your sexual relationship is now and don't see any reason to make a change.

Consent Scenario C

PERSON 1

You think you know what PERSON 2 wants—that's the way your relationship has always been. You're more outgoing, they're more quiet and reserved, and they expect you to take charge and make decisions. That's how it is at your home. So you're going to let them know that tonight is the night—you're going to have sex together for the first time.

Consent Scenario C

PERSON 2:

You can't believe you're with PERSON 1. You know there's a nice person in there, but they're always making the decisions in the relationship. You don't really feel like you have any say, and it's just easier to go along with what they want than to cause a fuss. You've been doing a lot of touching without having any type of sex (vaginal, oral, or anal) and you haven't said what you do and don't want.

Consent Scenario D

PERSON 1

You love being in a relationship with PERSON 2! You two seem like you were made for each other—you finish each other's sentences, like the same things, like each other's friends, and are on the same page when it comes to what you do together sexually. You want to try something you've never done before with them but figure you should talk with them about it first.

Consent Scenario D

PERSON 2:

You love being in a relationship with PERSON 1! You two seem like you were made for each other—you finish each other's sentences, like the same thing, like each other's friends, and are on the same page when it comes to what you do together sexually ... kind of. There are some things you've done together that you didn't really like, but you don't want to bring it up because things are going so well and you're concerned about making PERSON 1 upset.

Consent Scenario E

PERSON 1

You're at a party and you see PERSON 2, whom you've always thought was really cute. They've been drinking a little, so you go up and talk with them and see whether they might be interested in going someplace more private.

Consent Scenario E

PERSON 2

You're at a party and you see PERSON 1, whom you've always thought was really cute ... you think, you're not sure, because you've had a few drinks already and aren't sure whether you're confusing this person with someone else ... anyway ... you're feeling good being at this party, that's all that matters! You want to stay at the party, so if anyone tries to get you to leave or go elsewhere at the party, you really don't want to.

Consent Scenario F

PERSON 1

You're at a party and you see PERSON 2. You've kissed a few times in the past, and it was always super casual, but you always thought it could be something more. PERSON 2 is sleeping on a couch, and since you've made out in the past you think it will be fine if you cuddle up next to them and give them some kisses ... and maybe even a bit more?

Consent Scenario F

PERSON 2

You're at a party and you're super sleepy because you were up all night doing homework after swim practice and then had two tests today at school. You had a cup of punch at the party and didn't realize that it had alcohol in it ... until ... so sleepy now ... ahhh that couch looks so nice and cozy ...

Putting It Into Practice: Getting and Giving Consent

Homework (HS-3)

Name: _____ Date: _____

Instructions: Over the next week, please log the following situations and record how they went:

- Two situations in which you were asked to give permission to someone else for something
- Three situations in which you asked someone else for permission to do something

Situation 1: _____

Did you give consent? _____ **How or why not?** _____

What, if anything, would you have done differently? _____

Situation 2: _____

Did you give consent? _____ **How or why not?** _____

What, if anything, would you have done differently? _____

Situation 3: _____

Did they give consent? _____ **How or why not?** _____

What, if anything, would you have done differently? _____

Situation 4: _____

Did they give consent? _____ **How or why not?** _____

What, if anything, would you have done differently? _____

Situation 5: _____

Did they give consent? _____ **How or why not?** _____

What, if anything, would you have done differently? _____

