

Influence of the media

Learning objective

Students explore the impact of sexualised imagery on young people's sexual identities and sexual behaviours through the use of music clips and newspaper articles.

Take Home Messages

- Adolescence is a period of dramatic physical, social and emotional change involving many new feelings and experiences.
- Sexual feelings are a normal part of adolescent change and need to be managed appropriately.
- Sexual activity has physical, social, emotional and legal implications.
- Individuals are responsible for the decisions and choices they make regarding their sexual behaviour.
- People have different attitudes, values and beliefs towards sex and sexuality.
- The digital world is dominated by sexualised imagery that can influence sexual identities and behaviours.

Curriculum Links

[WA Curriculum](#)

- [ACPPS092](#): evaluating the influence of personal, social, environmental and cultural factors on decisions and actions young people take in relation to their health, safety and wellbeing
- [ACPPS095](#): critiquing and selecting the most suitable and reliable sources of health information according to the decision that needs to be made

[International technical guidelines on sexuality education](#)

- Skills for health and wellbeing
- Values, rights, culture and sexuality

Materials

- Internet access
- Teaching Resource: Digital Era online article (below) - one per pair

Document [Digital Era online article.docx](#)

Before You Get Started

- Pornography is something that is becoming much more accessible for young people and something that they are being exposed to much earlier than in the past. Pornography is how some young people receive sex education. Current thinking suggests that these factors can affect young people's expectations of each other and themselves, and also how young people form healthy relationships with others. See the Guide: [Young people and the accessibility and influence of pornography](#) for more information on this topic.
- It is possible that a student may have been involved in a traumatic experience relating to pornography and sexual harassment. It is important that teachers are familiar with the Guide: [Dealing with disclosures](#) and have a risk management strategy in place.

Learning Activities

Assessing media: Wrecking ball song lyrics 20 minutes

Using a case study, students discuss the necessity of sexualised imagery in the media.

1. Read the lyrics to the Miley Cyrus song Wrecking Ball without telling the students the name of the song or artist (the lyrics can be downloaded from the internet).
 - It's likely students will know this popular hit first released in 2013, but may never have thought about what the lyrics mean.
 - Ask students to consider what the song is about and what it means using the [think-pair-share](#) strategy, and then share responses with the class.
2. Show the students the Wrecking Ball YouTube clip (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=My2FRPA3Gf8>) [3:41min]. Ask:
 - What are your initial thoughts and feelings about the clip?
 - Do you feel the sexual behaviour in the video clip is consistent with the message of the song?
 - How does the video clip accurately reflect or not reflect the lyrics?
 - If you were 11 or 12 years of age watching this video clip, what impression do you think it would have on you?

Assessing media: Digital era article 20 minutes

Using an online article, students analyse the impact pornography has on young people and their intimate behaviours. Students extend their knowledge to assess whether pornography is contributing to the normalisation of sexual violence and gender equity in our community.

1. Provide each pair of students with a copy of the Teaching Resource: Digital Era online article to read independently.
2. In small groups, students discuss the following questions.
 - What is the article about and who is it aimed at?
 - How are men and women represented in mainstream advertising, music videos and popular culture? (think about the setting, the activities they are engaged in, the language that is used by, and about, men and women, etc.)
 - Women are often underrepresented in the media, creating the message that women are unimportant or invisible. Can you think of examples of this?
 - How do you feel about the article? Do you agree with the claims made?
 - How does today's violent pornography found in advertising, music videos and popular culture negatively impact young people and their intimate behaviours?
 - How is pornography contributing to the normalisation of sexual violence and gender inequity in our community?
 - What might young people think about gender and sexuality if they only got their information about these topics through advertising, music videos and popular culture and did not receive sex education like you are getting?

3-2-1 Reflection

1. Ask students to share their responses from the group task.
2. Discuss differing views and any misconceptions (e.g. sex vs gender).
3. Highlight the [Think u know](#) and esafety.gov.au websites for support and further information.

External resources

[The practical guide to love, sex and relationships](#)

A teaching resource from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

[Topic - Porn, what you should know](#)

- critically thinking about sexual imagery - what is
- Working things out.

Sexual consent and the law

Learning objective

Students analyse sexual consent and the law through real life scenarios.

Take Home Messages

- Consent is the free agreement to do something.
- Sexual consent must be mutual, freely given, informed, certain, coherent, clear and ongoing.
- Sexual consent can be withdrawn at any time.
- Sexual activity without consent is against the law (sexual assault).
- The laws around sex and consent are there to help protect people from harm and abuse.
- Understanding what consent is and the laws around consent is a foundation for respectful relationships and contributes to the prevention of sexual assault.

Curriculum Links

[WA Curriculum](#)

- [ACPPS093](#): Investigate how empathy and ethical decision making contribute to respectful relationships
- [ACPPS094](#): Evaluate situations and propose appropriate emotional responses and then reflect on possible outcomes of different responses

[International technical guidelines on sexuality education](#)

- Values, rights, culture and sexuality
- Skills for health and well-being
- Violence and staying safe

Materials

- Item belonging to another person in the class (e.g. pencil)
- Video: [Tea and consent](#) (2min 50sec video)
- 1 x Y chart for each group of 4-6 students (electronic, photocopy or butchers paper)
- 1 x Teaching Resource: [Consent scenarios student activity sheet](#) for each group (or individual)
- 1 x Teaching Resource: [Consent scenarios teacher answer sheet](#) (electronic or photocopy)

Before You Get Started

- Consider the timing of this lesson given the possible triggering content. It may be best delivered

before a lunch break or at the end of the day so that students have time to process information before another lesson and have time to seek help if required. Be aware that discussing topics such as sexual consent and sexual assault can be upsetting for people as they reflect on their own experiences or that of people close to them.

- Liaise with the school health team (e.g. Community health nurse, school psychologist) to inform them of the content you will be covering in class. It may be helpful to have these additional adults in these lessons or on standby for any individual or small group work that may need to take place.
- [Protective interrupting](#) - Teachers need to know and understand how to use this technique to prevent students from potentially disclosing sensitive information or abuse in front of other students.
- [Dealing with disclosures](#) - Teachers must be aware of the school and legal procedures if a student discloses personal issues, particularly disclosures of sexual abuse.
- [Exploring my own values](#) - Consider your own thoughts, feelings, attitudes and values on this topic and be aware of how they may influence the way you present this activity. Be aware of your own self-care and support networks.
- Preview [Tea and consent](#) (2min 50sec video) to determine suitability for your students. NB: There are a number of versions of this video online. Some contain expletives and some are spoofs of the video - please check that you have the correct video before use.

Learning Activities

Group agreement and self-care 10 minutes

Teaching tip: A group agreement must be established before any Relationships and Sexuality Education (RSE) program begins to ensure a safe learning environment. Read: [Essential information: Establishing a group agreement](#) for tips on how to create one and what to include.

1. Revise the class [group agreement](#).
2. Remind students that throughout the lesson they can write any questions down and add them to the question box at the end of the lesson (if they do not wish to ask them during the lesson). See [Essential information - Setting up a question box](#).

Trigger warning - Say:

"This lesson covers the topic of sexual consent and sexual assault. These topics can sometimes be difficult for people. Please let me know if you feel you need to take a break from the room.

Before we start, let's check that everyone knows where to go for help if you want to check anything that this lesson raises for you."

4. Ask students:

Who are some trusted adults you can talk to?

(Possible answers: parents, grandparents, teacher, older siblings, doctor, other family members, etc)

Teaching tip: It is important not to tell students who their trusted adults are or should be. You can offer a list of suggestions of who they might be. For some students, some of the people you suggest, may not be people that are safe for them to talk to. Students should not be made to share their list of trusted adults publicly unless they wish to do so.

Who are some people at this school that you can talk to?

(Possible answers: class teacher, other teachers, school psychologist, community health nurse, youth workers, etc)

What services and online support is available?

(Possible answers: [Sexual Assault Resource Centre \(SARC\)](#), [Kids helpline](#), [Headspace](#), GPs, [Sexual Health Quarters](#), [Beyond Blue](#), [Lifeline](#), [1800 Respect](#))

What is consent? 15 minutes

5. Ask for a volunteer to bring an item belonging to them (e.g. a pencil) to the front of the class to model the following examples of consent/not consent.

Person 1: "May I borrow your pencil please?" Person 2: "Yes" (hands pencil) Person 1: (takes pencil)

"This is clear, affirmative consent."

Person 1: "May I borrow your pencil please?" Person 2: (no answer) Person 1: (takes pencil)

"Even though, I asked politely, I did not get consent. The absence of a 'no' is not a 'yes'."

Person 1: "May I borrow your pencil please?" Person 2: "No, sorry." Person 1: "Awww, come on. I let you use my pen last week". Person 2: "Errr, hmmm, OK I guess."

"Is this consent?" (no, it has been coerced or pressured).

Person 1: "May I borrow your pencil please?" Person 2: (nods head, smiles and hands pencil)

"Is this consent?" (yes, non-verbal consent)

"What if they weren't smiling and nodding?" (unclear if consent has been given).

"How could we check to make sure we have consent?" (ask the person again, ask for clarification, not take the pencil until we are sure).

"What if they let me borrow their pencil yesterday?" (Not consent - consent has to be given on each occasion).

"What if I took the pencil and used it to scratch under my armpit?" (Not consent. It is unlikely the person understood what they were agreeing to).

"What if I borrow the pencil and then they change their mind and want the pencil back?" (consent has been removed and the pencil should be returned).

6. Say:

"The same principles apply to consent in sexual situations. Consent must be certain, clear, informed, freely given, and it can be removed at any time. Consent is important for all people, of all sexualities and in all kinds of relationships. Consent is a fundamental part of respectful relationships. Now we are going to look at consent in more detail"

Optional activity: Video - Tea and consent

7. Say:

"We are going to watch a 3 minute video that uses drinking tea as an analogy for sexual consent"

8. Watch: [Tea and consent](#) (2min 50sec video)

9. Ask:

What did you think about the video?

What were the key messages of the video?

(Possible answers: consent can be removed, you can't make someone consent, you can change your mind, it's ok to change your mind, unconscious people can't consent, consenting last week does not mean consenting this week)

What consent looks like, feels like, sounds like 10 minutes

10. Divide class into groups of 4-6 using [Grouping strategy: Birthday line up](#)

11. Ask:

How difficult was it to line up without talking?

How did you communicate your birthday to others?

(Using my fingers, wrote it down, pointed to a calendar /display in the room, etc)

Were there any miscommunications?

What would make it easier to check the non-verbal communication?

(Ask them, verbal communication, etc)

12. Say:

"Communication is vital for sexual consent. Consent and communication between sexual partners is the foundation for respectful, safe, mutual sexual experiences. It is everyone's responsibility to check that their sexual partners are enthusiastically consenting to any sexual activities. Let's explore some different ways that consent may be communicated."

13. Use [Teaching Strategy: Y chart](#) to explore what consent looks like, feels like, sounds like.

Teaching tip: Depending on your classroom demographics, you may wish to have additional adults assisting with this activity or to do the activity as a whole class if you feel the class require closer guidance.

Possible answers:

Looks like	Feels like	Sounds like
Kissing you back	Everyone involved wants to be there	Enthusiastic 'Yes!'

Touching you back	Pleasurable	"That feels good"
16 years and older	Not drunk or drugged	"Keep going"
Someone voluntarily taking their clothes off	Freely given (not pressured or coerced)	"Sure"
	Safe	"Do it again"
	Them pulling you closer	Clear!
		Continually checking in by asking:
		Asking 'Is this OK?',
		'Does this feel good?'
		'Would you like to try?'

14. Say:

"It is important to remember that consent is an ongoing conversation. Each of these answers are just examples of things that might help to determine if someone is consenting. It is important to keep checking in with a partner.

When it comes to consent, the absence of no does not mean a 'yes'. Uncertainty, hesitation, umming and ahhing are NOT signs of enthusiastic consent. It's important to be aware of verbal or non-verbal signs from sexual partners.

Saying 'Stop', 'I'm not sure', 'Can we slow down?' or changing the subject are all examples of how people might indicate they are not consenting. A person who is not consenting might give non-verbal signs instead of saying 'no', like not responding to touch, silence, turning away, pushing a partner away, crying or freezing.

Although we can communicate and consent non-verbally, the only way to be sure a partner consenting is to ask. And the best, most clear way to give enthusiastic consent is to say it - 'Yes!'

Without consent, sexual activity is sexual assault. Experiencing sexual assault can have significant impacts on a person's physical and mental health throughout their lifetime. The harm caused by sexual assault impacts individuals, families and communities.

If you are not sure if your partner is consenting but you keep going anyway, it is not only not ok and harmful — it is against the law."

Sex and the law 10 minutes

15. Look at the [Youth Law Australia](https://www.youthlawaustralia.gov.au/) website and demonstrate how to navigate to the WA laws and the section on Sex and consent.

16. Discuss:

What is legal age of consent in WA?

(In WA, the legal age of consent is 16. This means when you are 16 years or older, you can have sex with another person aged 16 or older as long as you are both freely consenting. However, it is a crime for a person who is caring for you, supervising you or has authority over you (like a teacher, coach, boss) to have sex with you while you are between the ages of 16-18.)

What do we mean by 'sex'?

(According to the law, sexual intercourse means when a penis, finger, object or any part of a person is fully or partially inside another person's vagina or anus. Sexual intercourse also includes any kind of oral sex. A sexual act can include a lot of different sexual activities, not only sexual intercourse e.g., kissing, touching, mutual masturbation, making another person watch pornography, sending and receiving sexual pictures. Consent is required for any sexual act. There are a few different laws about sex and consent and different sexual crimes e.g., sexual assault, indecent assault)

Why are there laws around the age of consent in WA?

(The laws around consent are there to protect people from harm and abuse.)

Discussion can be extended to explore cultural expectations and understandings about teenage sexual relationships:

- How do the laws about consensual sex differ from the unwritten rules or expectations?
- Do the unwritten rules and expectations around teenage sexual relationships vary with age, e.g. would your parents have different ideas about these rules or expectations?
- Do these unwritten rules and expectations vary depending on where you are, e.g. at school, at a school dance, at a friend's place, at the park?
- Do the laws about consensual sex vary with where you are?
- Where do these unwritten rules and expectations around teenage sexual relationships come from?

14. Stress that regardless of age, if someone has not given consent to sexual activity and it has taken place, it is a crime.

Consent scenarios 15 minutes

Students apply their knowledge of sexual consent to scenarios.

1. Provide each small group with a copy of the Teaching Resource: Consent scenarios student activity sheet and allocate each group a different scenario to work through.
2. Ask students to read the scenario and associated questions they have been given. Ask the students to identify the key points, discuss whether the situation is consensual or not and provide reasons for their answers.
3. Have each group share their scenario and findings with the whole class.
4. Discuss questions or concerns and clarify any inconsistencies as they arise.

3-2-1 Reflection

Students write on a prepared worksheet or in a journal:

- 3 x recalls: write three facts the legal aspects of consent e.g.,

People must be of legal age to have sex (WA – 16 years of age)

People must be willing and want to have sex (free agreement)

People must be able to have sex (not drunk, under the influence of drugs, asleep, unconscious or not mentally capable of understanding what is happening).

- 2 x so what's: write two things about why consent information is relevant and important.
- 1 x questions: write one question they have about consent.

Students should be reminded that sex without consent is considered a crime.

For support, people can contact the school psychologist, school nurse, the [Legal Aid WA Infoline](#), [Aboriginal Legal Service of WA](#), [Sexual Assault Resource Centre](#) or the police.

Health Promoting Schools

Background teacher note: [Health promoting schools framework](#)

Partnerships with parents

- [Talk soon. Talk often: a guide for parents talking to their kids about sex](#) is a free resource that can be bulk ordered by schools and [interactive website](#). Consider sending a copy home to parents prior to starting your RSE program or providing a link to your website/e-news for parents and carers. The booklet offers age and stage related information on sex and relationships so that the topics covered in class can be reinforced at home. ([How to order hardcopies.](#))
- Send copies of [Relationships, sex and other stuff](#) home. ([How to order free copies.](#))
- Run a parent and carer workshop prior to delivering RSE lessons so that parents and carers can see the resources used, ask questions and find out how to support the school program by continuing conversations at home.
- Add the [Get the Facts](#) and [SECCA app](#) links to your website/e-news.

Partnerships with school staff

- Invite the school health professionals and pastoral care staff (school nurse, school psychologist, chaplain, boarding house master, etc) to a class or an assembly to introduce them to the students and let them know what their roles are and how they can help the students.

Health campaigns - sexual health

Learning objective

Students explore the purpose of health campaigns and identify the components of a successful campaign. In groups, they develop their own campaign with a sexual health theme.

Take Home Messages

- Health literacy is having the knowledge to find, understand and use information about our own

health and health care.

- Understanding health information helps us to make healthier and safer decisions.
- It's important to get health information from credible sources such as health websites.

Curriculum Links

[WA Curriculum](#)

[ACPPS095](#): Critically analyse and apply health information from a range of sources to health decisions and situations

[ACPPS096](#): Plan, implement and critique strategies to enhance health, safety and wellbeing of their communities

[International technical guidance on sexuality education](#)

- Skills for health and wellbeing

Materials

- Student Activity Sheet: [KWL – Health campaigns](#) [one per student]

Document [KWL - Health campaigns.docx](#)

- Student Activity Sheet: Health campaign case studies [one per pair]

Document [Health campaign plan.docx](#)

- Teaching Resource: Health campaign topics PowerPoint slides [one per student/group]

Document [Health campaign topics PowerPoint slides.pdf](#)

- Student Activity Sheet: Health campaign plan [one per student/group]

Document [Health campaign plan.docx](#)

- Student Activity Sheet: Campaign evaluation [one per student/group]

Document [Campaign evaluation.docx](#)

Before You Get Started

- This is a recommended 4-6 week unit of work. Students will require access to the internet. Prior to starting the unit, check websites and associated campaigns are accessible on school networks.
- Teachers need to understand the concept of health promotion to facilitate the delivery of this learning activity.

The World Health Organization defines health promotion as

“...the process of enabling people to increase control over, and to improve, their health”.¹

Health promotion interventions include policy development; legislation and regulation; re-orienting health services; community development; creating healthy environments; and raising public awareness and engagement through health campaigns. This learning activity focuses on the impact of health campaigns on changing health behaviours through the use of mass media, social media and/or community events.

1 [World Health Organization](#). Retrieved 16/07/2024

Learning Activities

Exploring health campaigns 20 minutes

Students explore their understanding of health campaigns and determine what they need to know in order to develop a health campaign of their own.

1. Give each student a copy of the Student Activity Sheet: KWL – Health campaigns. Allow 5 minutes for each student to complete the ‘What I know’ about health campaigns section individually. Discuss student answers as a class.
2. Explain to the class what a health campaign is:

A health campaign aims to raise awareness and understanding of a health issue, and often aims to change people’s health behaviours. This can be done in a number of ways including mass media, social media and community events.

3. Allow 2 minutes for each student to complete the ‘What I want to know’ section of the KWL chart. Discuss student answers as a class.

Note: Students will complete the ‘What I have learnt’ section at the end of this unit of work so should be encouraged to keep in a place easy to find later.

Campaign case studies 25 minutes

Access to a computer lab and internet will be required for this activity as students will investigate case studies of local and national health campaigns. They will then develop a health campaign of their own on one of five sexual health and/or relationships topics: Growing Bodies; Respectful Relationships; Staying Safe; Emotional Wellbeing and/or Diversity.

1. Students form a pair or group of three. Provide each pair/group with one of the case studies from the Student Activity Sheet: Health campaign case studies.
 - Ask the students to visit the campaign website and familiarise themselves with the campaign. They then complete the activity sheet by identifying the target group; the positives, negatives and issues of the campaign; and if the campaign worked.
 - All students who worked on the same campaign are then joined together in a larger group to discuss their results. Each group then nominates a spokesperson to present their findings to the class.
2. Explain to students that they will be developing their own health campaign on a sexual health and/or relationship topic of their choice. This can be done individually, in pairs, or in small groups.
 - Display the Teaching Resource: Health campaign topics PowerPoint slides. Discuss ideas for health campaigns that can be developed for each of the topic areas. Explain

that students will need to decide on a topic area and then a subject for their health campaign.

- Distribute the Student Activity Sheet: Health campaign plan to each student or group. Explain each section of the activity sheet.
- Each student/group has 4-6 weeks to research and develop their health campaign.

3-2-1 Reflection

1. Students present their health campaign to the class or to others (e.g. peers, parents, school or other community members).
 - Seek feedback from the audience as to how effective they thought your campaign was using a Rating Scale: use Student Activity Sheet: Campaign evaluation (students may decide to design and use their own format to seek feedback).
2. Students complete the 'What I have learnt' section of their KWL chart to describe what they have learnt from this activity.

External related resources

[The practical guide to love, sex and relationships](#)

A teaching resource from the Australian Research Centre in Sex, Health and Society, La Trobe University.

[Topic 8: Authenticating online information](#)

Accessing and evaluating information on sexual health and relationships online.