

Girls & Gangs
Union Street Media Arts

Session 1
Drama Workshop
Power and Struggle

Objectives

- Participating actively in decision making as a team and as an individual
- To explore the different types of rights and obligations and how these effect both individuals and communities
- To communicate opinions and values through a democratic discussion and be able to respect to the opinions of others



Objectives

- To engage with and reflect on different ideas, opinions, beliefs and values when exploring topical and controversial issues and problems
- To reflect on the progress they have made, evaluating what they have learnt, what went well, and the difficulties encountered including what they would do differently

1st Activity

The group will be shown a Video Clip to which will be followed by a class discussion about the young people have just witnessed.

The aim is create a fair and open debate surrounding the issues raised in the Video.

The young people must be allowed to express their opinions freely whilst encouraged to maintain an open-mind.



2nd Activity

Warm-up exercise: *Hot Potato*. Duration: 10 minutes.

The exercise allows the young people to become familiar with each others' names and also increase levels of focus and concentration.

Instruction: Stand in a circle and imagine the ball is a hot potato- they can't hold it for longer than 5 seconds or it will burn their hands. Throw the ball to someone while saying their name. After a few rounds you could ask participants to sit down once they have thrown the ball to ensure everyone has a chance to take part. The aim to learn each other's names whilst focusing on the pattern that the ball is moving towards after each throw.

3rd Activity

Group exercise: *Sharks*. Duration: 20 minutes. Requires 6 pieces of Newspaper.

The aim of the exercise is to encourage the young people to work as a team as well as make individual decisions. Also, to allow the young people to think about power, struggle and control in real life situations such as; gang culture and those involved in the hierarchy of status.

Instructions: Scatter newspaper around the space, these represent islands (safe spaces). Participants must move around the space, swimming to each of the different islands. One person is the shark and can tag the others when they are not on an island. If a person is tagged they become sharks as well.

Progression: as the game moves on remove some of the islands or at least make them smaller. Also be aware of people staying on an island for too long so there may need to be a time limit on how long you can stay on one island for.

Reflection

- The aim is allow young people to gain awareness of the deeper meaning behind the previous exercise. Duration: 15 minutes.
- The young people will be able to fairly discuss how they felt during different points of exercise: to be a swimmer/shark/stuck in an unsafe place/alone/with others.
- What strategies did they use to keep themselves from danger?
- Did they work successfully as a team or as an individual?
- Finally, to relate all points to the topic of gang culture and gang-related issues. This will allow the young people to link their opinions and emotions to that of the different levels of power involved in gangs.