

# Exploring Memes

## *Activity*

### **Resource:**

Engaging Students in Healthy Living through Drama

**Grade(s):** 11 12

## What is it all about?

Use pictures and short captions to support students in consolidating and expressing their understanding of healthy living concepts such as: factors that influence harmful behaviours and their social and financial impacts; healthy behaviours to reduce illness; implications of harassment, violence, and abuse and ways to respond to them; community resource supports to take action; and/or local and global issues related to substance use and addictions. Students use their learning as an inspiration for a creative performance. This activity may be used at the end of a unit of learning.

## Curriculum Connections

Grade 11: C1.2, C2.1, C2.3, C3.2

Grade 12: C1.1, C1.2, C3.2, C3.3

## How is it done?

- Have students find or create images (for example, from magazines and newspapers, screen captures from websites, personal photos, images created on a device) that represent an idea about one or more of the healthy living concepts the class has explored during a unit of learning.

- Have students create a short message that acts as a caption for their chosen image and communicates a message they want to share about what they have learned.
- Create a “Wall of Memes” on which students post their image and message to share with the class.
- Have students form small groups and use the “memes” to create a skit, dramatic reading, or spoken word poem and share their messages with the class.
- Facilitate a group debriefing session. Have students reflect on what they learned, their and others’ reaction to the work of their peers, and what the group as a whole can take away from the activity to support the well-being of both self and others.

## What may be needed?

- Example images and captions to model the task for students
- Space to create the “Wall of Memes”
- A camera, cell phone, or similar device to take pictures and/or create images

## Opportunities for assessment

Use the images, captions, and student performances to assess students’ learning and determine further learning that may be required about any of the selected healthy living concepts.

## Ideas for Extension

As a class, consider posting the pictures and captions in a common space in the school or community to share the messages with others.

## Educator notes

- It may be helpful to start with examining students’ favourite “memes”. Remind students that the “memes” need to be appropriate for the learning environment.
- Have students reflect on the “memes” they see in their daily life and the messages they convey.