

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.