



Debate It!

Ages 11-14

Activity Overview

Youths will identify and describe the warning signs of substance use and misuse, addictions, and related behaviours and use communication skills while debating topics related to substance use.

Assessment

The educator observes youths' demonstrated knowledge and understanding of the impacts of substance use on a person's well-being.

Equipment

Markers, Poster paper

Minds On

Explain to youth that today's activity is all about debating different beliefs around substance use. Youth reflect on their own beliefs by individually, completing the following six statements either simply reflecting on their responses or writing it down:

- Parties without alcohol are . . .
- To me, the difference between drug use and drug abuse is . . .
- Coming to school stoned is . . .
- Hearing someone brag about drinking at a party is . . .
- When my friends are smoking, I . . .
- One thing I don't believe about drugs is . . .

Youths then form pairs and share their choice of three of their six responses.

Consolidation

1. Working individually, youths reflect on both sides of the debate and select, providing a rationale, which side they believe to have been the most persuasive regarding the advantages and disadvantages of drug use.
2. Youths write a short paragraph, monologue, or poem conveying the key messages as they understand them from the debate. Youths share their writing with a partner for review prior to sharing with a small group.