The Hunger Games: Engaging Teens About Gender Equality will begin at 2 pm EST

To hear the audio portion of this conference, you must dial:

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passcode: 3840419

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The Hunger Games: Engaging Teens About Gender Equality

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April 18, 2012
Promotion of healthy adolescent relationships knowledge and skills can reduce adolescent dating abuse and sexual assault and other adolescent risk behaviors.

• Education – State, District and local secondary school level
• Domestic & Sexual Violence Programs
• Youth Organizations
• Health Care Systems
• Juvenile Court Systems
• Community mental health
• Risk Behavior Advocacy

Engaging Communities on Values and Norms
Promoting Healthy Relationships
- Respect
- Equality
- Safety
- Honesty & Trust
- Individuality
- Support
- Acceptance
- Communication
- Caring
- Space

Engaging youth
The Hunger Games: An Overview

• The Hunger Games trilogy
  • Suzanne Collins
  • NYT bestseller 100+ weeks
  • 26 million+ sold by movie premiere
  • First children’s book to sell one million audiobooks on Amazon

• The Hunger Games movie
  • $152.5 million opening weekend
  • #1 at box-office 4 weeks straight

• Primary audience targets
  • Middle school age
  • But, movie is PG-13
Panem conducts an annual reaping called The Hunger Games
• 12 girls and 12 boys
• Compete against one another for survival
• Creating a world in which boys and girls have equal power and equal opportunity for survival
Males and females display *full range* of characteristics that do not always conform to traditional gender stereotypes.

- Katniss Everdeen
- Peeta Mellark
Gender Equality Conversations

- Internet Articles
- Huffington Post
- New York Times
Gender Equality Conversations

• **Youth were telling us:**
  • Katniss is the strongest female character they had ever seen in popular culture
  
  • Katniss *loves what’s real*
    • Family
    • Life
The Hunger Games: The Gender Equality Message

- Promotion of healthy relationships rooted in **gender equality** prevents unhealthy or abusive relationships.
- Teaches adolescents their **value as individuals** and the skills they need to negotiate relationship issues:
  - Responding to pressure to be in a relationship and to participate in risk behaviors.
Engaging Youth About Gender Equality

- Movie Premier night -
  - **March 23, 2012**
  - Partnered with local movie theater

Hi-Tech, interactive Survey
- “This is so cool. It feels like a video game.”
  - Teen Survey Participant

- **Other survey options:**
  - Teens activists with clipboards
  - **Free-** Cell phone polling up to 40 participants:
    - www.polleverywhere.com
The Games Review

Take the Survey
May the Odds Be Ever In Your Favor
Have you read, *The Hunger Games* book?

1. Yeah buddy!
2. Not yet—gonna catch the movie first.
Are you a...?

1. Girl
2. Guy
What’s the most important part of the story to you?

1. Katniss & Prim’s relationship
2. Katniss & Gale’s relationship
3. The Tribute process and The Hunger Games
4. Katniss & Peeta’s relationship
5. Katniss’ strength, abilities and belief in herself to win the Game
The Gamemakers and Sponsors value Katniss & Peeta more as a couple than as individuals.

1. Yeah, I agree.
2. No, I don’t think so.
If the movie emphasizes Katniss & Peeta’s relationship, the movie makers are as controlling as the Gamemakers.

1. Yeah, I agree.
2. No, I don’t agree with that.
In real life, do the media send messages that you are of MORE VALUE if you are in a relationship?

1. Yes.
2. No.
In real life, are teens pressured to be in a relationship in order to have more value?

1. Yes.
2. No.
What was the most important message in *The Hunger Games*?

1. Katniss was a skilled provider for her family.

2. Guys and girls were equal in the story.

3. Katniss, Gale, and Peeta showed different, but equally good ways to be strong.

4. Katniss makes her own choices.

5. Gender equality changes everything.
In my life, I experience that guys and girls are equal.

1. all of the time
2. most of the time
3. some of the time
4. rarely
5. never
Congratulations, you have survived *The Games* Review.
The Hunger Games Movie Premiere Night

- Youth-influenced marketing
- Youth-led engagement
What We Learned- Survey Results

- **Gender equality** was the MOST important message of the movie.
- Most teens said they *NEVER, RARELY, OR ONLY SOMETIMES* experience *gender equality* in their own lives.
- Teens felt pressure from society and media to be in a relationship.
  - 73% said teens are pressured to be in a relationship to have more value.
The Hunger Games and the Gender Equality Message

Overview of The Hunger Games

The Hunger Games series depicts a society in which male and female characters display a full range of characteristics that do not always conform to traditional gender stereotypes for men and women. Katniss Everdeen is a 16 year old female who is strong, intelligent, and confident, and skilled at hunting, archery, and cooking for her younger sister. Peeta Mellark, the male counterpart to Katniss, is a physically strong, emotionally expressive, and a baker and cake decorator. The society in which they live conducts an annual reaping, selecting twelve girls and twelve boys to compete against one another for survival, creating a world in which boys and girls have equal power and equal opportunity for survival.

Katniss and Peeta demonstrate that males and females can both be strong, vulnerable, likeable, admired, and ultimately their true selves. Through discussion of these characters, their physical attributes, personalities and behaviors, students identify their own unique characteristics and recognize the unrealistic limitations imposed by traditional gender stereotypes. The overall goal of this lesson is to teach students to be themselves and to value others for who they really are.

Learning Objectives

- Develop an understanding of the social constructs of gender and its influence.
- Understand concepts of gender, gender stereotypes, and gender equality.
- Identify effects of gender stereotypes on individuals and their relationships.
- Strengthen analytical and critical thinking, and literacy skills regarding gender and gender equality.
- Identify effects of gender stereotypes on individuals and relationships.
- Strengthen analytical and critical thinking skills and literacy skills regarding gender.

Materials Needed (for all activities)

- Handouts for each student or pairs of students – (middle school) Personality Characteristics or (High School) Personality Characteristics (high school) at a specific point in time in the story
- 2 large pieces of white paper or a white board and markers.
- Optional – Definitions handout

Gender Equality Lesson Plan -
- Brief Interventions Effective Strategy
- 45-50 minutes for two activities

The Hunger Games
Gender Empowerment Lesson Plan

Learning Objectives

- Understand social constructs of gender and its influence.
- Understand concepts of gender, gender stereotypes, and gender equality.
- Identify effects of gender stereotypes on individuals and relationships.
- Strengthen analytical and critical thinking skills and literacy skills regarding gender.
Middle School

Activity #1: Personality Characteristics handout

**The Hunger Games and the Gender Equality Message**

- Middle School
- Activity #1: Personality Characteristics handout
### The Hunger Games and the Gender Equality Message

**High School**

- **Activity #1: Personality Characteristics, Behaviors, and Activities handout**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Characteristics</th>
<th>Before Reaping</th>
<th>Television Interview</th>
<th>During the Games</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Katniss</strong></td>
<td>1. Peacemaker</td>
<td>1. Rescuer</td>
<td>1. Archery</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>2. Intelligent</td>
<td>2. Rescued</td>
<td>2. Cake frosting</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>5. Rebel</td>
<td>5. Strategic</td>
<td>5. Hunting</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>12. Cooperative</td>
<td>12. Fights</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>13. Caring</td>
<td>13. Protector</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>15. Responsible</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Peeta</strong></td>
<td>1. Peacemaker</td>
<td>1. Rescuer</td>
<td>1. Archery</td>
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Activity #2: Character Quotes

Class discussion

Katniss Everdeen “It was slow-going at first, but I was determined to feed us. I stole eggs from nests, caught fish in nets, sometimes managed to shoot a squirrel or rabbit for stew, and gathered the various plants that sprung up beneath my feet. Plants are tricky. Many are edible, but one false mouthful and you’re dead. I checked and double-checked the plants I harvested with my father’s pictures. I kept us alive.”

Peeta Mellark “We were five. You had a plaid dress and your hair...it was in two braids instead of one. ...’ So that day, in music assembly, the teacher asked who knew the valley song. Your hand shot right up in the air. She put you up on a stool and had you sing it for us. And I swear, ever bird outside the windows fell silent. And right when your song ended, I knew - just like your mother- I was a goner.”
Optional Writing Activity: Character Portrait

- The Hunger Games characters exemplify people who display a full range of characteristics and as such, do not conform to traditional gender stereotypes.
- Are these characters compelling because they seem consistent with socialized norms - or because they embody a radical departure from the norms - within the Hunger Games society? I.e., a society dedicated to death-match competition for resources?
- Write a character portrait that demonstrates a full range of characteristics!
The Hunger Games and the Gender Equality Message

Lesson Closure:

- Katniss and Peeta are equally strong, but in different ways.
  - Katniss is skilled, confident, and a rescuer
  - Peeta is emotionally expressive, caring, and vulnerable
  - Free to be their true selves
- Men and women take control over their own lives.
  - Katniss and Peeta and the other characters pursue their own goals, their own values, develop self-reliance, and are able to make choices and influence –
- Being **free to express your true self** is critical to becoming a healthy individual and achieving a healthy relationship
FREE MATERIALS to Rural grantees, including The Hunger Games Gender Equality Lesson Plan discussed in today’s webinar!
FREE Materials for Rural Grantees

www.lovewhatsreal.com
and click on the “STUFF” link

or contact:

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1-888-293-6118, ext. 310

or

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