

#RETHINKCANCER LESSON PLAN TEMPLATE

DEBATE/LITERACY LESSON PLAN

INTRODUCTION/STARTER TASK: START WITH A STORY

AIM: to introduce the sensitive topic of cancer to the class in a light-hearted way. Stimulate thought about what it means to have cancer and what their existing perceptions may be. This will give you an understanding from the outset of how your students view this topic.

Tell the story of Kris Hallenga, CEO and Founder of CoppaFeel! or another chosen figure, who has been through a cancer diagnosis preferably at a young age to challenge perceptions.

Kris's Story:

Kris Hallenga was 23 years old when she discovered she had a lump in her boob. She didn't check her boobs regularly and didn't know if this lump had always been there or if it was new. However, after speaking with her twin sister, she decided to go to the GP who told her that it was probably hormonal due to her age and nothing to worry about. Kris was happy with what the doctor had said and got on with life as normal, travelling to China to work for 8 months. During this time she noticed that the lump had actually got bigger and was more painful so when she returned from overseas, she went to her GP again. She was again told it was nothing to worry about. It wasn't until she went to the Doctor's again and was properly examined that she found out she had secondary breast cancer, which means the cancer had spread from her boob to other parts of her body.

At this point, ask the students to reflect on what has happened to Kris and decide how they think Kris' story ends.

Once the class has fed back their ideas, finish the story by describing what has actually happened to Kris.

Kris went on to have treatment and set up a charity called CoppaFeel!, which aims to spread awareness amongst young people of the signs and symptoms of breast cancer as well promoting self-checking. Kris will always live with cancer, but at the moment the treatment is keeping the cancer cells at bay so she can get on with educating young people, eating ice cream and seeing the world.

TIME OF ACTIVITY: 10 minutes

MAIN COURSE: RESEARCH AND DEBATE

AIM: To enable the students to engage further with the topic at a level they are comfortable. They can conduct their own research and form views for themselves based on what they find.

The class should be split into two groups and each given their statement to debate.

Group 1 statement - form a case for debate about how males checking themselves for testicular cancer is more important than females checking themselves for breast cancer.

Group 2 statement – form a case about how females checking themselves for breast cancer is more important than males checking themselves for testicular cancer.

The following roles should be assigned within each group -

- *The Starter* - issues the starting statement for either side.
- *The Counters* - will give arguments back against the starting statement and argue for the 'main' section of the argument.
- *The Finishers* - will give the ending statements.
- *The Researchers* - will provide the above speakers with their points and can be used as backup if their speakers have nothing to say.

All of these roles should contain more than one person.

RECOMMENDED RESOURCES: Students can use tablets and computers to research information if this equipment is accessible. Alternatively the teacher can put together information sheets to share with the researchers of each group.

TIME OF ACTIVITY:

The students are given 25 minutes to prepare the debate.

They will then have 15 minutes presenting their cases.

DESERT COURSE: SUMMARY OF KEY POINTS

AIM: To ensure students leave with the key messages in a light-hearted, relatable way.

This is an opportunity to reinforce messages and key facts learnt in the debate. Due to the fact that the debate touched upon testicular and breast cancer, we recommend that the students are given signs and symptoms of these cancers as a follow up to the session.

The debate and class should be drawn to a close by highlighting that regardless of gender, or body parts, it is important that everyone is aware of their own bodies and is checking their bits. An ending key message is that if you notice any changes in your body that you are concerned about then it is important to make an appointment with your doctor and get them checked quickly.

TIME OF ACTIVITY: 10 minutes