

PORNOGRAPHY: SMALL GROUP ACTIVITIES AND QUESTIONS

Small Group Activity (5 minutes)

Divide students into groups of six to eight per group. Give them five minutes to come up with a clear definition of the word "pornography" with specific examples, and without the aid of a dictionary. If you have more than three groups, direct half of the groups to come up with a clear idea or description of who the main consumers of pornography are (age group, gender, race, etc.) Share the answers of all the groups briefly before the video is shown.

SHOW THE VIDEO (16 Minutes)

Small Group Questions (10 Minutes - 5 per group, assign 3 or 4 questions)

1. Why do people look at, or listen to, pornography?
2. What are the negative ideas that pornography gives?
3. Chris (in the video) started looking at "dirty" magazines when he was 15. What "dirty" magazines do you think are and are not pornographic?
4. What is the difference between becoming addicted to alcohol or drugs and becoming addicted to pornography (or sex)?
5. How can pornography alter your view of the opposite sex?
6. How can pornography alter your view of physical intimacy?
7. How does pornography portray women negatively, and what negative impact does it have on women, in general?
8. If your date is into pornography, how might this impact the way you are treated?
9. What can you do to stop a friend from being involved with pornography?
10. Why should anyone, especially a teenager, stay away from pornography?
11. Pornography is not protected by the right to free speech under the Constitution. Why is this a good or bad judgement by the Supreme Court?

Group Activity (5 Minutes)

Compare answers of #2. Pornography paints a picture that women need to have perfect bodies, that they all crave sex, usually outside of marriage, and often with more than one partner. Compare answers to #4. Why can't Chris just "quit?" Finally, talk about the answers to #8. If you are dating someone who is into pornography, their idea of what a relationship is about is going to be distorted!

PORNOGRAPHY: WRAP-UP

PORNOGRAPHY IS DEGRADING TO WOMEN.

- Pornography portrays women as sex objects that are just waiting to satisfy any man's sexual fantasy.
- Pornography often involves bondage of women who have sex forced upon them but then submit and supposedly enjoy it.

THE REALITY IS THAT WOMEN ARE NOT SEX OBJECTS, AND FORCED SEX IS RAPE.

- Those pornographic fantasies are sick and twisted ideas that are not true.
- Women are to be respected equally in relationships and forced sexual advances are never welcomed or enjoyed.

PORNOGRAPHY TWISTS YOUR PERCEPTION OF SEXUAL INTIMACY AND RELATIONSHIPS.

- Unreal ideas of what men and women are supposed to look like will send you on a never-satisfying search for the imaginary man or woman.
- Unreal ideas about the role of sex in an intimate relationship can leave you like Chris in the video: obsessed, never satisfied, and always unhappy.
- Unreal fantasies about what is "good sex" can ruin your ability to have relationships. It can even ruin your possibilities of having a successful marriage someday.

PORNOGRAPHY IS JUST AS ADDICTING AS DRUGS OR ALCOHOL.

- Just like with drugs, you can become addicted and not able to stop or get enough.
- It can consume your thoughts, your time, your money, and your lifestyle.
- Mass murderers like Ted Bundy have often admitted their compulsions were rooted in pornography addiction--which started out very "innocently."

SAY NO TO PORNOGRAPHY.

- Don't fill your mind with trash that will hurt you later!
- Don't hang around people involved with pornography--and especially don't date anyone who uses it.

HOMEWORK: PORNOGRAPHY

HOMEWORK Project: Advertising and Pornography

Focus on TV or Newspapers/Magazines for this project. For TV, watch TV after 10 p.m., and go through the channels. See how many ads you can find for numbers which promote sexual talk or innuendo. Tape portions of each commercial with your VCR. Even though you won't catch the beginning of each commercial, you can tape at least part of whatever you see. For print advertising, clip out ads relating to sex in the "personal" section of the classified ads of three newspapers and three magazines. Then answer the following questions, in essay form:

1. What did each ad ask you to do, and what did it promise in return?
2. How many ads did you find in a given hour or half hour on TV?
3. What percentage of sexually oriented classified ads did you find in each publication?
4. What surprised you about these ads?
5. What restrictions, if any, should be placed on this type of advertising and why?

Conclude with your opinion on why pornography should or should not be restricted, and what negative effect it could have on your local community.

HOMEWORK Project: Pornography In Your Community

According to the U.S. Supreme Court, that which is considered to be pornography depends on your "community standards." Survey your community, starting with you peers. Ask the following questions, and add your own, as well:

1. What is your definition of pornography?
2. What magazines, newspapers, movies or TV channels are, in your opinion, pornographic?
3. What about pornographic "adult" bookstores?
4. What limits should be placed on pornography in your community and why?

Now ask your parents, teachers, and other adults you know, the same questions. Using their collective answers as a general consensus for a definition of pornography, go into your community and see if you find any pornography. Look on newspaper racks, in convenience stores, on TV and for adult bookstores and certain movie theatres. Report your findings in a paper, and answer at least these questions in your findings:

1. What does your community generally consider to be pornography in the areas of print, TV and movies?
2. How do the opinions of your peers differ from those of adults?
3. Did you find any pornography in your community?
4. What laws about pornography exist in your community?
5. What limits should be placed on pornography, and why?