

This is Gender Equity

Adapted from Massachusetts's Gender Equity: Lesson Plans and Teacher Guide

Grade Level: 4 - 6



Objective(s):



To define gender equity
To identify examples of gender equity at home and in school
To analyze personal and societal attitudes about gender issues
To apply an understanding of gender equity through creating a multimedia art project

Time: 2 class periods



Materials:



Markers or colored pencils
Large format paper
Scissors
Chalkboard, flip board, or overhead projector
Magazines and newspapers to cut up

Procedures:



Define Gender and Equity as a class. Write student definitions on the board, and agree on the closest definition. Read the dictionary definition of each word. Ask the students how close their definitions are to the official definition. Are the definitions different? Why?

Ask students for examples of gender equity at school, at home, or in the workplace. Ask for examples of gender inequities at school, at home, or in the workplace.

Make two columns on the board, one titled Equity and the other Inequity. Ask students to offer words and phrases that might fit in each column to explain the validity of each viewpoint. Ask the students what messages are implied by the words listed. Are they:

- positive or negative?
- emotional or objective?
- associated with money?
- associated with traditional values?

Have students write to the following prompt:
“What is an example of gender equity in your home? At school?
With your friends?”

Have students read their pieces to class.

Ask their classmates to respond verbally or in short notes to writer.

Have students find visual examples of gender equity in newspapers and magazines, or on the Internet. Cut out, print, or photocopy and bring to class.

Divide the class into small groups of 2-3 students.

Ask students to create collages that express the idea of gender equity.

Have students use retrieved images from their homework assignment, original artwork, and images from available classroom materials.

Have the groups present the posters to the class, explaining rationale for the images chosen.

Class discusses merits of each piece.

Display posters in the classroom to serve as reminders of gender issues and attitudes which will show student awareness in class.