

LESSON PLAN - THE PARTY

Introduction

What do young people feel to be a successful/ unsuccessful party? This lesson is intended to serve as a resource and basic platform for continued work with alcohol issues. In groups, students document their perceptions of:

- o a successful party – one that is remembered or one that people want to experience again!
- o an unsuccessful party – everything went wrong!

Discussing these issues not only increases student awareness, but also provides teachers with indirect insight into the leisure time of students. It will give you an understanding of how students view alcohol and what they consider 'having fun' to mean. Students need not be informed that this exercise is part of their alcohol education, but should instead be allowed to work on the assignment without restrictions or expectations. Alcohol may prove not to be an important ingredient in a successful or unsuccessful party.

Issues dealt with in the exercise

- o What do students define as a good party versus a failed party?
- o What is the connection between parties and amount of alcohol drunk?
- o Gain insight into the students' lives and free time.
- o Would it be better to have parents there, but out of sight?
- o Importance of letting neighbours know and having a finish time
- o Importance of not issuing open invites on facebook, etc.

Implementation

- o Divide students into groups and ask them to describe a successful party and an unsuccessful party. The teacher support materials include aids and questions that you can use during the lesson. Student Material 1 includes material for the students' work.
- o Have the students orally present their reports and ask them to discuss and comment on each other's answers.
- o Conclude the lesson by discussing what is the best recipe for a successful party and describing the essential ingredients for the best party/ worst party.

Suggested examples:

A good party

Nice venue, preferably in a big flat or house.

Just the right amount of people.

Good atmosphere and music.

Good food and drink (alcohol?).

Room to sit down and chat too.

Meet up and get ready with friends first to get in the right mood (with alcohol?).

Have alcohol, but without getting drunk or throwing up.

Flirt, make out or hook up with a guy/girl.

No fighting, vandalism or theft.

Sleepover with friends afterwards (risks).

A bad party

Uninvited guests show up and cause trouble.

People throwing up.

Everyone leaves early.

The police show up.

Bad atmosphere.

Got off with someone not very attracted to because of drinking too much.

Some people drank too much and totally flipped out.

No music or bad music.

Parents come back and throw everyone out for behaving badly.

The venue gets wrecked

Get banned from ever having a party again.

Talk about the dangers of posting party invites on social media. Suggest setting the ground rules with parents and friends. Discuss not feeling pressured by friends into holding a house party if not comfortable. Discuss alternatives such as going to a film, out for a pizza and activity based parties such as skating, bowling, paint balling, etc.

Moving ahead

Once you have finished this exercise, it will be easier to adjust your lesson content to the students' experiences and particular situations.

Student Material 1 – The Party

Mike, aged 16, is planning to going to have a parent-free party. Describe how he and his friends (who are the same age) get the chance to be on their own for an evening.

The assignment is to describe both a successful party and an unsuccessful party.

Use these questions and write down your answers.

A successful party – one that is remembered or one that people want to experience again!

How did Mike prepare for the party?

What happened?

Why was it so successful?

What is important for a party to be successful?

An unsuccessful party – everything went wrong!

How did Mike prepare for the party?

What happened?

Why was the party not successful?

Whose fault was it?

What should people think about to make sure that a party is not a failure?

Think about:

Did Mike's parents know about the party

Was there any food available?

Were there any soft drinks and water to hydrate?

Did the neighbours know?

How many people were invited?

What is the venue like

Did uninvited people turn up?

Was anything broken or damaged

How did people get home?