ACTIVITY #1: PURPOSE OF Social Media (20 MINUTES)

Strategy: Scramble

             



Start by telling students that social media has an impact on youth and how they believe they should act. Explain to students that it is important to look critically at social media because what happens on media platforms is often different than how people present themselves in their every day lives. Tell students that for this activity, the class will brainstorm as much information as possible about the purpose of social media.

o Give the instructions for this activity: Students will stand up and walk around the room. When you say “scramble”, they must partner up with someone. At that point, you will ask a question and they will discuss it with their partner. After 30 seconds, you will ask for volunteers to share their answers, then you will have students move around again until they hear “scramble” and the process repeats.

Start the activity. The questions and possible responses are listed below.

o What are the common types of social media we use?

Answers will vary; some responses include: twitter, facebook, email, text, reddit, tumblr, etc

o What is the purpose of these types of social media?

Answers will vary; some responses include: communication, share stories, entertainment, influence decisions, etc.

o What kinds of positive images and messages do we see and hear in social media?

Answers will vary; some responses include: friendships, pursuing passions or dreams, love, be yourself, live in the moment, etc.

o What kinds of negative images and messages do we see and hear in social media?

Answers will vary: live in the moment, degrading images, unrealistic behaviours and consequences, unhealthy relationships, cruelty, stereotypes, generalizations, etc.

o How do we see girls represented in social media? What kinds of behaviours and stereotypes do they show?

Answers will vary; some responses include: no longer kids anymore, age compression, girls fighting each other to assert power rather than being respected, expected to be sexually mature regardless of the consequences

o How do we see boys represented in social lmedia? What kinds of behaviours and stereotypes do they show?

 Answers will vary; some responses include: violence, fighting to assert power, getting what they want when they want it, guys as "kings"; to win they need to be violent to get what they want then they are rewarded; can’t be athletic, smart and good-looking; the athlete as Neanderthal versus the good student as a nerd or not cool;

o Do people act differently on social media than in their real lives?

O What are the dangers of acting differently on social media?

O Do you try to escape your real self on social media.

When the activity is over, have students return to their desks. Summarize the activity by indicating to students that we are bombarded with social media each day. It is important that we are aware of what we are reading, watching, and listening to, and that we consider the impact of social media on us and the people around us.