

10 Tips for Engaging Boys and Young Men in Gender Equity

Adapted from an article written by Jason Tan de Bibiana for NextGenMen.

3. Get out of the classroom.



Using experiential activities encourages discussions. Critical reflection can have a lasting impact on the actions around gender inequity. Try a check-in circle and use role plays to explore issues.

6. Emphasize that gender equality is good for everyone.



Gender norms and stereotypes are harmful to people of all genders. Promote the idea that gender equity is good for everyone.

9. Meet everyone where they're at.

Every person's willingness to learn about gender inequities is different. Find ways to offer more opportunities for different individuals, including those who are engaged and those who are resistant.

1. Know your hook.



Finding out how to get boys and young men to take their first step 'in the door' to start learning about gender inequities is often the first challenge.

4. Role model healthier masculinities.

As role models and mentors, it is important to demonstrate what we hope to inspire, such as vulnerability. If we are asking participants to share openly, we must be willing to do so ourselves.

7. Challenge gender norms and stereotypes.

A gender transformative approach means challenging gender norms and stereotypes. Weave this focus into all kinds of games, activities & discussions.

10. Build peer support.

It's not easy being the only person who is willing to stand up against bullying or violence. Encourage groups from different classrooms and communities to support each other.

2. Create safe, inclusive spaces.

Establish group agreements on respect and confidentiality. It is crucial to foster a safe space for everyone to be included.

5. Take your time.



Having multiple sessions spaced apart by a week or a few days allows participants to reflect on what they are learning and how they can apply it to their everyday lives.

8. Break through masks.



Everyone seeks acceptance and belonging. It is important to accept one's true identity and to let go of the masks that we wear.

Why boys and young men?

Boys and young men experience many advantages in our patriarchal societies, but, just like everyone, they are also negatively affected by restrictive gender roles and stereotypes. We need to continue to engage and involve boys and young men in gender equity.

SOURCE

Tan de Bibiana, J. (2017, March 12). 10 tips for engaging boys and young men. NextGenMen. <https://www.nextgenmen.ca/read-more/10-tips-for-engaging-boys-and-young-men>