



Concerns of Youths

Life Skills:

Decision Making, Leadership

What to Do:

Compare lifestyles of youths in different countries

Measuring Success:

Youths will construct a chart comparing youths' concerns in the United States with those of youths in at least one other country.

Audience:

7th - 12th grades

Time Involved:

Varies; this activity could extend over several meetings and provide a 20 - 30 minute activity.

Group Size:

1 - 20

Preparation and Materials

Newsprint pad or easel — this isn't essential but would help the group keep its ideas visual.

Introduction

Throughout the world, young people face numerous problems as they struggle to grow up. In developing countries, young people may be poorly educated, undernourished, live in inadequate homes and have little access to health care. In developed countries, young people face different kinds of problems: drugs, teen-age pregnancy, the threat of AIDS and anxiety about the future. What problems are more pressing? Which are youths experiencing personally? What can be done to make it easier for young people to grow up?

The Activity*Session I:*

What are the important concerns of youths today? What are your concerns? What are your friends' concerns? (Record concerns that are mentioned.)

Do you think youths in other countries have similar or different concerns? Would you like to find out? (*Ask youths to pick some countries that interest them and list the countries on newsprint.*)

Do you know anyone in our community who has lived or traveled in any of these countries? (List.)

Who would like to visit these individuals to ask about youths' concerns? Who will search the World Wide Web for answers? (*Keywords for search: international youths concerns, youth's concerns, Bolivian youths, Indonesian youths, etc.*)

Who will check the library for magazines, books, newspapers, with useful information?

Session II:

What did you find? Can we start a chart comparing concerns of youths? On what countries should we focus? What additional research do we need? Where might we look? Who will do it and report next time?

Sessions III, IV, V (as needed)

Key Concerns to Consider

- Human rights
- Youth participation in decisions that affect them
- Violence
- Individual development
- Education
- Drugs
- Income
- Alcohol
- Creating a safer world

Reflect/Discuss

Share What You Did

How did you search for information? What did you find? How did your group divide the tasks?

Tell What's Important

What similarities did you find? What differences did you find?

Generalize to Your Life

What does this activity mean to you? Explain why (or why not) this activity helped you to understand youths in other countries.

What did you learn about the World Wide Web? About yourself?

Apply What You Learned

Report your findings to another 4-H or youth group.

More Challenges

- Make a directory of organizations that work on youths' concerns. Include their addresses and major activities.
- Organize a fund-raiser and contribute your profits to one of the organizations that help youths.

Lesson Evaluation for Youths: Concerns of Youths

Please read each statement carefully and check if you strongly agree, agree, don't know, disagree or strongly disagree. Please return this evaluation to:

U of A Cooperative Extension Service
4-H Youth Development
2301 S. University Avenue
Little Rock, AR 72204

After completing the Concerns of Youths lesson, I:

Strongly Agree = SA

Agree = A

Don't Know = DK

Disagree = D

Strongly Disagree = SD

Can name at least five concerns of youths from the United States.

SA A DK D SD

Can name at least five concerns of youths outside the United States.

SA A DK D SD

Can compare U.S. youths' issues and the issues of youths from at least one other country.

SA A DK D SD

The most important thing I learned was:

Because of this information, I will:
