



Discussion Guide for

WAKE UP CALL

Objectives

- To help young people who are being sexually harassed "find their voice" and speak out.
- To show the loss of self-respect and personal values young people experience when being exploited.
- To dramatize a workplace environment in which the atmosphere is toxic because of unwanted and inappropriate sexual comments and innuendo.
- To empower (self-efficacy) young people to support each other in a difficult situation.
- To present some of the resources in our society, such as the Equal Opportunity Employment Commission, which are available when one needs help.

Synopsis

The sexual harassment and exploitation of young people in the home, school or at work, is a serious issue in today's world.

Sexual harassment is a particularly difficult issue to deal with for a young person in a relationship with an adult who is in a trusted role such as a parent, relative, teacher or boss. Lizzie, a high school student who is committed to going to college to be an environmental scientist, cannot progress in her education without money which her parents are not in a position to provide. She

finds a job at Wolf's Pizza which not only pays well, but also allows her flexible hours around her school schedule.

At first it looks like a dream job. Soon, however, Bob the owner makes inappropriate and unwanted sexual overtures and advances. It turns out that Bob has hired a number of young women, and is to varying degrees sexually inappropriate with all of them.

Lizzie is deeply conflicted. She needs the money and the hours, but she can't stand Bob's incessant looks, jokes, and innuendoes. She has to decide whether or not to compromise her values and integrity for the opportunity to earn money for college.

Questions To Ask Before Viewing

1. without naming names, what is an example of sexual harassment you have seen in your school?
2. What is the difference, if any, between sexual harassment and sexual abuse?
3. Agree or disagree: Sexual harassment is no big deal. Society should just accept it. Explain.
4. Agree or disagree: If a girl is attractive, she enjoys getting hit on. Explain.
5. If a teacher or boss sexually harassed a friend of yours, what would you advise him or her to do?

6. Discuss: if you are sexually harassed at work, there's nothing you can do but quit.

7. True or false: If you don't like what someone said to you, you should tell them the truth to their face. Explain.

"Time Out" Exploring Possibilities

Lizzie: "That's the right question. Now I gotta find the right answers."

1. What are some options available to Lizzie at this point?
2. What are some positive and negative consequences of each option?
3. Given what you know about Lizzie, what do you think she will do? Why?

Questions To Ask After Viewing

1. What is the EEOC (mentioned in the video) and how can they help you?

(The Equal Employment Opportunity Commission is a division of the U.S. government set up to ensure the rights and opportunities of Americans in the work force, regardless of race or ethnicity. The EEOC has a sexual harassment policy, and will bring charges against a place of business in which workers are being sexually harassed.)

Because of the amount of U.S. television seen in this country, often our views are a confusing mix of U.S. and Canadian perceptions. There are both federal and provincial standards that would apply, but there are significant differences between the two countries and each province. It would be a useful exercise to determine those differences and how or why they came about.

2. What is the concept "corroborating evidence," and how does it fit into the story?

(Corroborating evidence is supporting evidence from someone else. If Lizzie's co-workers also would complain about having sexually harassed, her case would be stronger)

3. Why doesn't Bob stop harassing Lizzie after she asks him to?

(There is no right and wrong answer. People like Bob may have been sexual harassers since they were much younger. Now that he is the boss and signs the paychecks, his earlier tendencies may come out worse than ever. And a point to keep in mind, that these "skills" are honed often with years of practice before they are confronted.)



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4. Do you think Lizzie should have quit earlier? Why or why not?

(There is no right or wrong answer. Lizzie clearly wants the money to go to college, and she seems confused at first by the fact that her co-workers do not complain. She takes some time off, thinks about the situation, and then acts.)

5. Why do the other waitresses put up with Bob?

(One needs the paycheck to help her family, another wants to earn money to get married, another just doesn't care as long as he doesn't touch her.)

6. One person may be deeply offended by a remark, while another enjoys it. Explain.

(This is an important issue in sexual harassment. Some women might enjoy the teasing of a male while other women are hurt and offended. Although each jurisdiction in Canada is different, some courts have established a reasonable person" standard for these cases. This standard asks if a reasonable person might be offended by the behavior or speech of another)

7. What is the concept "quid pro quo", and does it apply to Slo Mo? (Quid pro quo means "this for that" - you do this for me, and I will do that for you. If you grant the boss sexual favours, you will get to keep your job or get a promotion. Slo Mo goes along with Bob and spends most of her time applying make-up rather than working.)

8. Do you think the other waitresses will continue to put up with Bob's inappropriate and illegal behaviour? (This is a difficult question. Hopefully they have learned from Lizzie, who provided a strong role model, confronted Bob, and will bring charges against him.)

9. Discuss: If you don't stop acts of sexual harassment, they can lead to sexual abuse. (There are many cases where someone who is being sexually harassed does not say no, and the harasser escalates the verbal abuse into physical abuse, apparently taking silence as a signal to do more.)

10. Do you think Lizzie will ever get to college? Explain.

(There are no right or wrong answers. Lizzie displays courage, intelligence and perseverance, and will most likely get to college.)

Additional Inquiry

Research the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission's policy on sexual harassment * Research your own school's policy' and consequences for acts of sexual harassment...; * What are 5 ways you could stop someone from sexually harassing you? Discuss verbal v.E. non-verbal sexual harassment, * Someone hands you a note with unwanted sexual statements. How do you confront the person?

Programs Details

Length:

13 minutes

Subject Areas:

Health & Guidance

Audience Levels:

Junior-Senior High

Order Number:

1-91075G

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