

Teacher Preparation Notes for Sexual Health and Reproduction

The instructions for this activity do not specify the number of topics each student is to complete, since this can be varied, according to your circumstances. One approach which we have found works well is to have each student complete one or two topics in-depth and present these topics to their classmates in small group discussions or a class discussion toward the end of the class period. This combination of class reports and discussion is useful for (1) sharing information, reinforcing learning, and adding and clarifying important points, and (2) motivating students to develop a good grasp of the topics they are researching. The only problem we have encountered with this exercise is that some students tend to simply copy information from the WebSites rather than understand the material and put it in their own words. One way to encourage more thoughtful Web research is to have them know that, when they report on their topic, their classmates and teacher will ask them questions, including the meaning of any technical terms they have included in their report.

Occasionally, one of the recommended web sites may use a technical term and not provide a definition, so you may find it useful to have a medical dictionary available. (Many bookstores carry a paperback medical dictionary at a reasonable price.)

Another useful resource for teaching human reproduction is the Nova video, Miracle of Life. This video provides a very good introduction to the biology of human reproduction. It is available for \$19.95 from WGBH (main.wgbh.org/wgbh/shop).

Very good posters on male reproduction, female reproduction, and pregnancy and birth are available from Edmund Scientifics, www.scientificsonline.com, for \$18 each. These posters are very useful tools for stimulating discussion, both by asking the students questions and responding to their questions.