



How to Answer Student Questions

Responding with Facts and
Confidence

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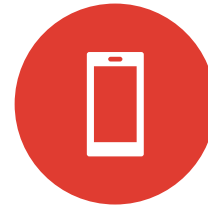
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Welcome

Group Norms



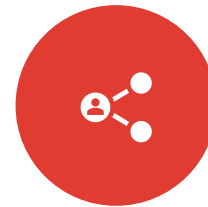
Put away
distractions



Ask questions
anytime



LOL



Vegas Rule (ish)



Reserve the right to
change your mind

Learning objectives

01

How to use the question box effectively

02

The four types of questions you'll get, and how to answer each kind

03

How to address disclosures, and other worries

Comprehensive Sexual Health Education (CSHE)

CSHE is a curriculum-based process of teaching and learning about the **cognitive**, **emotional**, **physical** and **social** aspects of sexuality.

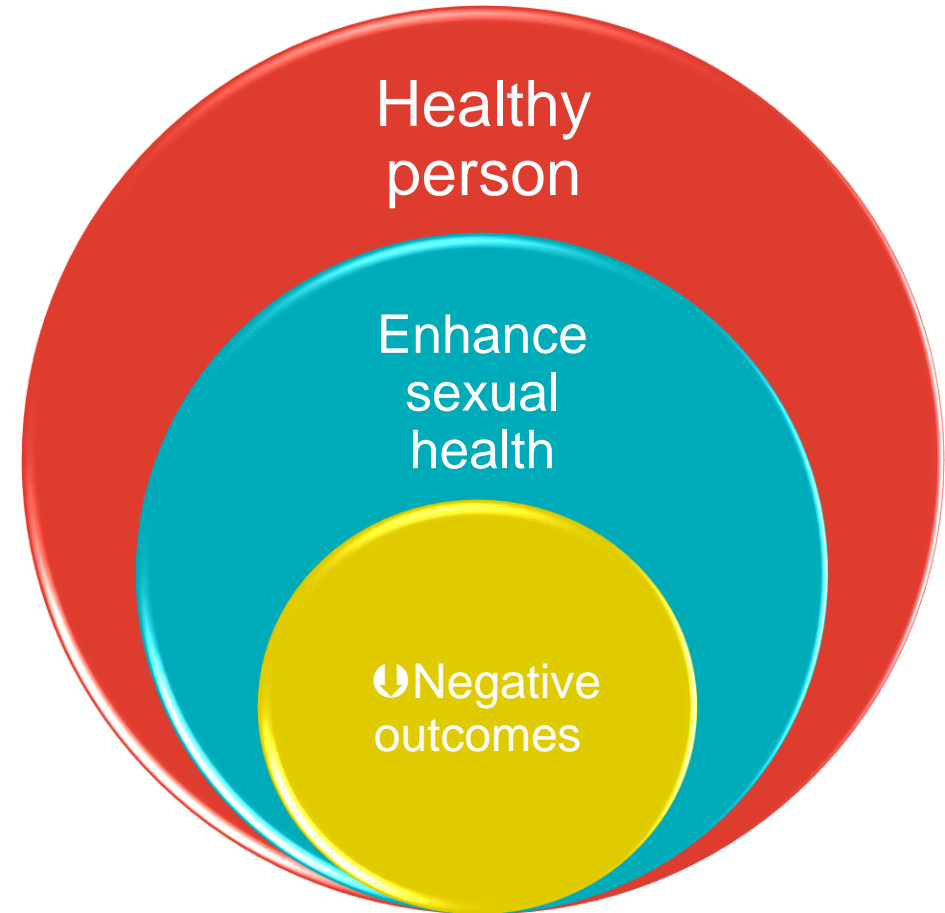
It aims to empower young people with knowledge, skills, attitudes and values to:

- realize their health, well-being and dignity.
- develop respectful social and sexual relationships.
- consider how their choices affect their own well-being and that of others.
- understand and ensure the protection of their rights throughout their lives.





The goal of sexual health education







Should you use a question box?

YES!

- Asking questions is part of learning
- For this topic, asking can be embarrassing or uncomfortable
- Anonymity encourages more questions
- Allows teachers time to prepare answers

Question Box Questions

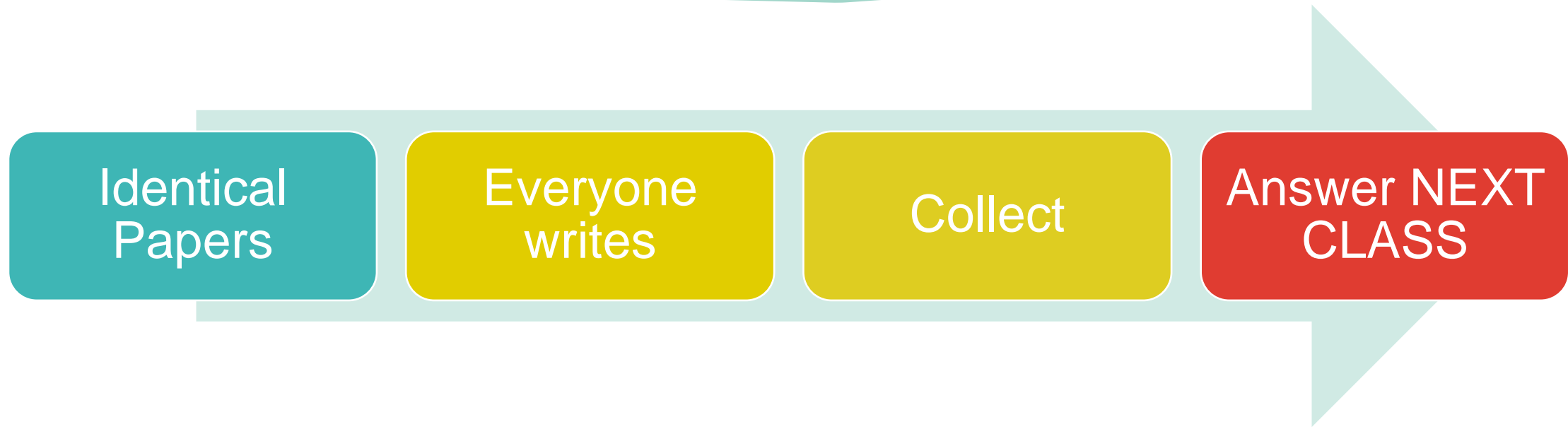


A question
involving
slang

A
question
you are
worried
about
getting

A
question
you have
about
sexual
health

The Question Box Process



The Question Box Process



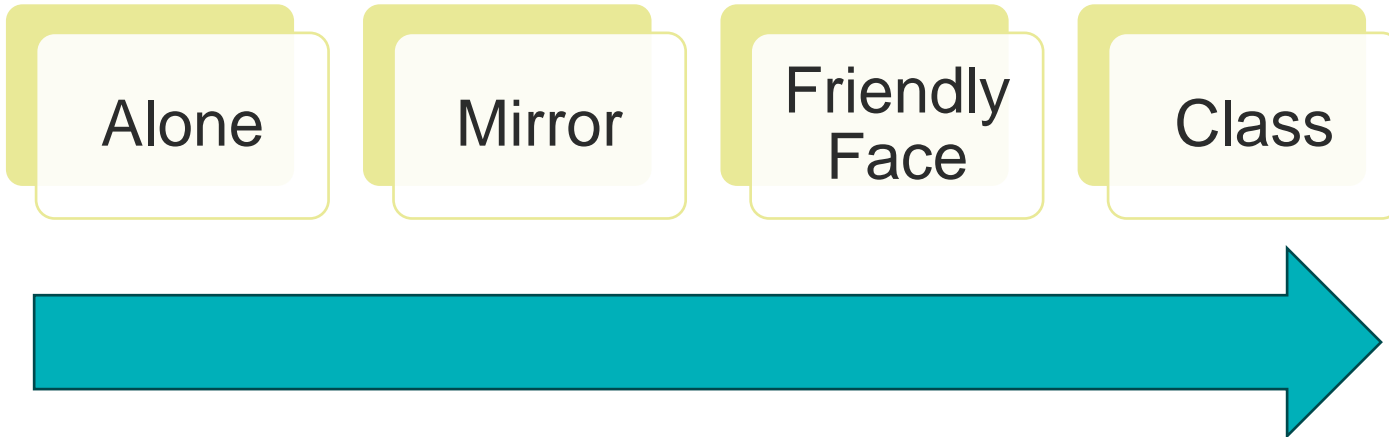
- After school, read through all the questions
- Get your giggles out
- Sort into 2 piles:

I can answer
right away

I need to look up
the answer



Getting Comfortable - Rehearse your delivery!



Tips for Answering Questions

- Group similar questions together
- Re-word for anonymity
- Model privacy and confidentiality
- Find the “nugget” in personal or shocking questions



Types of Questions



Requests for information

“What is a wet dream?”

“Does masturbation make you blind?”

“What’s a blow job?”

What are they?

Relatively simple questions where students are looking for the facts

Tips for answering

- If you know the answer, provide information within curriculum guidelines.
- it is okay to say, “I don’t know” and come back later with the answer.
- Teach the science words with the slang



Am I Normal?

“Sometimes my voice cracks and it’s embarrassing. What should I do?”

“How old should you be when you get your period?”

What are they?

Generally focus on concerns about physical and emotional changes they are experiencing.

Tips for answering

- Validate concerns, “many people wonder about...” or “I’m sure other people think about...”
- Then follow up with some information about what they can expect at this stage in their life
- Use words like “common” instead of “normal”



Values or Permission Seeking

“Is it OK for a 13-year-old girls to have sex with her 14-year-old boyfriend?”

“Should I be using tampons?”

“Did you ever... when you were growing up?”

What are they?

Often come in the form of asking whether they can participate in a particular behaviour.

Tips for answering

- Normalize without using the word “normal” when answering questions.
- Present facts: what is known medically, legally, risk factors, stats, positive and negative health outcomes.
- Refer students to their parents, family doctor, school nurse, church/religious leader, community, trusted adult if appropriate.



Shock!

“Does your partner like it when you...”

“What is a rim job?”

What are they?

Shock questions may be raised because of embarrassment, an underlying concern, or to simply cause a diversion.

Tips for answering

- Assume a positive intent and answer the question
- Remind students of group agreements
- Rephrase slang as a learning opportunity
- Use anatomically correct terms in your response.





Online Question Box

Disclosures

What if a student discloses abuse in the question box?



Be prepared

- School policy on reporting
- Local resources
- *Recognizing, Reporting and Responding to Abuse in Schools*
- Info 'for a friend'



Questions above grade level

In a perfect world... answer them!

In the real world...

- Learn the culture of your school
- Get admin support





Teaching Sexual Health

Parents & Teachers: Be Proactive. Be Prepared.



For Teachers

The teacher portal provides teachers and educators with evidence-based sexual health information, lesson plans, tools and resources.

[GET STARTED →](#)

For Parents

As a parent, it's never too early or too late to talk to your child, or learn more yourself. The parent portal is here to help.

[GET STARTED →](#)



Summary

- Validate
- Normalize
- Rephrase slang to teach
- Answer every question as best you can
- Reach out to tsh@ahs.ca if you're stuck!

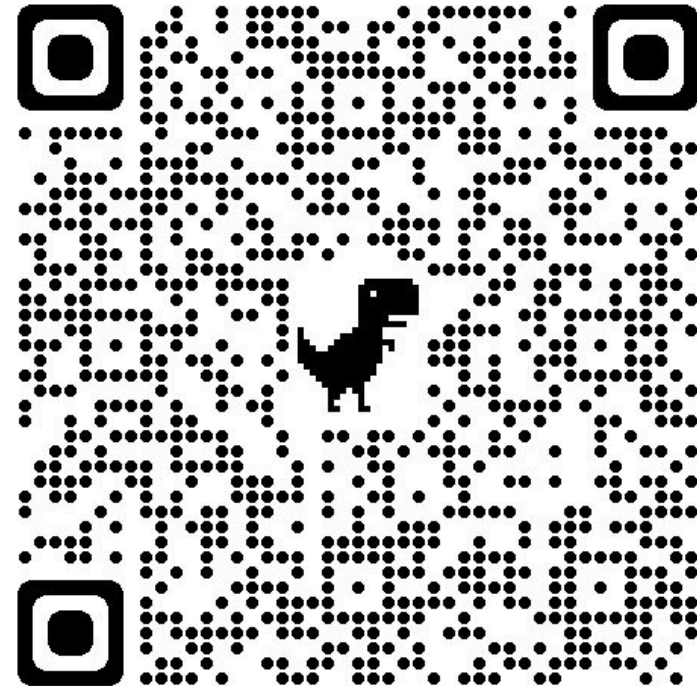




Upcoming Workshop

Teaching Sexual Health 101

Free 3-week asynchronous
workshop in Spring 2024



Scan QR code to get more details!

Thank you!



**teaching
sexual
health.ca**

For more information,
please contact
TSH@ahs.ca