SEVENTH/EIGHTH GRADE
LESSON V
SEXUAL HARASSMENT

Objectives
Students will
• Define sexual harassment
• Understand the harmful effects of sexual harassment
• Know that harassment is against the law

Concepts
1. Anyone, male or female, can sexually harass others or be the target of harassment. Sexual harassment can occur among peers or between faculty and students. Harmful effects of sexual harassment could cause the victim to
   A. Become physically ill
   B. Withdraw from social or public situations
   C. Turn to drugs
   D. Feel unable to have comfortable relationships with others
   E. Be limited in their academic choices
   F. Feel angry, afraid, embarrassed, degraded, intimidated
2. T.U.S.D. has a policy 4310 that provides for a learning and working environment that is free from sexual harassment. Sexual harassment is against Federal and State law. Title VII of the Civil Rights Act of 1964 and Title IX of the Educational Amendments of 1972 prohibit sexual harassment.
3. There are two kinds of sexual harassment:
   A. Quid Pro Quo Harassment—trading this for that. This is when someone asks for sexual favors in return for a higher grade, better job, etc.
   B. Hostile Environment Harassment—this is the most common kind of harassment. It occurs when repeated offensive behavior or comments create an unpleasant or intimidating environment and unreasonably interfere with someone receiving an education. It may also involve sexual comments or inappropriate touching on a one-time basis.

Materials
• Video Real People: When I Say Stop, I Mean Stop  (25 minutes)
• Worksheet “Could it Be?”
• Worksheet “Do’s and Don’ts”

Activities
1. Discuss the definitions of sexual harassment.
2. Have students complete the “Could it Be?” worksheet individually.
3. Show the video Real People: When I Say Stop, I Mean Stop
4. Discuss with the class their answers to “Could it Be?” and see if any of their answers change after viewing the video.
5. In groups of 4, have students think of a sexual harassment situation that could occur in daily life. Have each group present their vignette. **REMEMBER** some say that harassment is “just flirting” or “boys will be boys.” They may even blame the victim because of the way she dressed or say that she can’t take a joke. Male-female relations should be mutual. When one person is offended, it is harassment, not flirting.

6. Discuss with the class the causes of sexual harassment.
   A. Power Plays—many boys grow up believing in being competitive and in exercising power—especially over females. Many girls are taught the value of being nurturing and supportive. When subjected to harassment—or worse, sexual assault or rape—females often wrongly assume it is their fault.
   B. Stereotypes—treating males and females the way they are portrayed in the media.
   C. Gender Discrimination—women are typically paid less and don’t choose such fields as science and math for careers.

7. Stop sexual harassment
   A. Tell the harasser assertively that you don’t like the behavior and tell them to stop.
   B. If you confront the harasser face to face, ask a friend to join you.
   C. Tell a teacher, counselor, or administrator or all three.
   D. Don’t feel guilty. You didn’t cause harassment and you are not responsible for it.

8. **Exceptional Education Inclusion Activities**—Read worksheet aloud to students.
COULD IT BE?

Place an X beneath agree if the statement is an example of sexual harassment and an X below the disagree if the statement is not an example of sexual harassment.

Agree           Disagree

Discussing or “rating” another person’s body or sex appeal.
Unwelcomed touching of breasts, buttocks, or genitals.
Calling other students “babes, fags, sluts, studs, etc.”
Exposing someone by removing clothing against his or her will.
Using a computer to send unwanted sexual messages.
Being best friends with someone of the opposite gender.
Spreading a sexual rumor about someone.
Teaching sex education by using nude pictures from a men’s magazine.
Kissing someone.
Girls using vulgar language to a boy.
A teacher offering a better grade in exchange for sex.
Writing something sexual about another person on the bathroom wall or basketball court.
DO’S AND DON’TS

DON’T

• Make unwanted sexual demands or advances.
• Touch a person who doesn’t want to be touched.
• Make sexually demeaning remarks or gestures to or about others.
• Laugh at other’s sexually harassing words or behavior.

DO

• Put yourself in the other person’s shoes. How would you feel?
• Ask if you would want this said or done to someone you care about— or if you would want them to see or hear your comment or behavior.
• Treat others in a fair and respectful way.
• Think about how you want others to treat you.