

CHAT UP LINES AND STARTING A RELATIONSHIP

(50/60 minutes. Yr 11 and above)

Aim

For young people to think about gender roles, stigma and self-esteem through learning about chat-up lines. Also to think about how people start relationships, how friendships are different to potential romantic relationships and some of the risks involved.

Learning Outcomes

- What a chat up line is and when they are used
- Many chat up lines are inappropriate and can be offensive (and thus futile)
- To think about gender expectations with regard to chatting to someone for the first time (in the context of a sexual double standard for men and women)
- Explore some of the issues related to confidence and how to deal with failure or rejection
- Consider the risks to friendships where romantic relationships are involved.

Method

1. Ask everyone: "what is the purpose of a chat-up line?" and then chart this on the board. (eg A way of letting someone know that you think they are attractive. That you want to get to know them. That you want to go on a date with them. To have sex with them. To make them feel good about themselves.)
2. Hand out post-it notes to everyone and ask them to write down a chat up line that they might have heard. Allow everyone to chat to each other for ideas (perhaps put the students in pairs or small teams).
3. Then ask them to stick them up on the board and gather everyone around. Allow everyone the opportunity to read them and to have a giggle (many of them will be funny, some rude).
4. Then ask the young people to arrange them into 'good' and 'bad'. Discuss which are bad and why. (humour, originality, complimentary...)
5. Then ask young people to arrange them into 'nice' and 'creepy'. When is a chat up line nice and when is it creepy? (eg if the chat-up line is purely about sex)
6. Then ask young people to arrange them into 'things boys say' and 'things girls say'. This will have a discussion about whether boys or girls initiate relationships, (whose role should this be?)
7. Then facilitate a discussion about what makes a good chat up line (just saying hi and saying something nice / complimentary is probably the best thing, but ask for

their opinions).

8. In small teams hand out the Dear Doctor Love scenarios below. Ask them to give the best possible answer.

Process / Discussion Questions

- Can chat up lines work?
- When can chatting someone up be inappropriate?
- Should men or women do this?
- How do young people start relationships?
- How do people get confidence? Why do some people not fear being rejected?
- Can you go out with a friend? What are the positives and negatives of this?
- What can happen if you fancy a friend's ex?

DEAR DOCTOR LOVE

I am an 18 year old man and I'm desperate for help. I'm really shy and un-confident around women. I've had some female friends who I've wanted to go out with but they just see me as a friend and nothing else. Are there any chat up lines that work well?

DEAR DOCTOR LOVE

I'm a 16 year old girl. People say that I'm attractive but no-one ever asks me out. There's a guy that I really fancy in my year but I don't know whether he feels the same: what can I do?

DEAR DOCTOR LOVE

I think I'm in love with my best friend. We've been friends for a couple of years but I've realised over the last few months that I've started to think about her sexually. I get really really jealous with the idea of her seeing someone else, but I worry that we won't be friends if I tell her how I feel and she doesn't feel the same.

DEAR DOCTOR LOVE

So I want to go out with my friend's ex. They ended it a few weeks ago and she was a bit upset but I wouldn't say she was heartbroken about it. I saw her ex a couple of days ago and we were getting on really well and I thought that there was a bit of spark between us. I don't want to upset my friend though: what should I do?