



**A Discussion Game for Working  
With Teens Around Porn**

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# Planet Porn

A straight forward card discussion game which you can use in various ways. I've often used it in small groups with all the cards laid out on a table with the two headings 'Planet Porn' and 'Planet Earth' at either end. Young people can then take it in turns to pick up a card, read it out to the group and decide which heading to put it under. You could use cards one at a time for a large group, or give one card at a time to a small group and ask them to present their ideas to the large group.

Explain to young people that 'Planet Porn' is fantasy or the kind of sex you see in porn and that 'Planet Earth' means what happens in the real world. Sometimes a card might apply to both headings and sometimes it might not be clear where the card goes. Try not to get too bogged down in where cards go.

The most important element to the game is the discussion itself, so I find that asking open questions can help. Sometimes just repeating the phrase used on the card in relation to where the heading is can help. For instance "is everyone always turned on when they have sex in real life?"

The additional 'answer' cards can be stuck to the back of the card (maybe use a laminator) or can be kept separately to be referred to in the event of a dispute! You'll find lots of ideas for processing the learning from each card on the back with ideas for further discussion points.

If you get through all the cards then the potential learning outcomes for young people would be:

- Understanding of how bodies in porn and sexy modelling offer an unrealistic idea of how most people look and how most people's bodies work.
- That there are expectations and norms placed on people about the kind of sex that they should have and that porn can have a role in promulgating this.
- Porn can send out messages to its viewers about what is expected of men and women

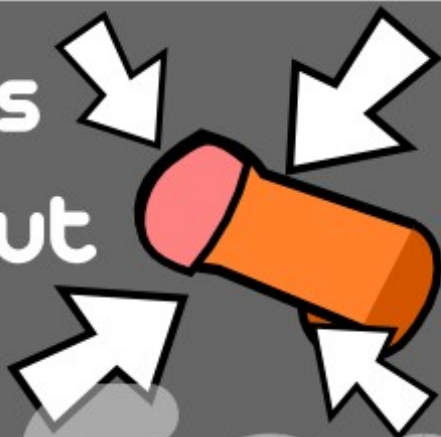
- Porn and sexy modelling is an industry which is mostly made by men for other men and to explore the idea that this is a reflection on power and gender in broader society.
- The nature of fantasy sexual imagery is that sex is about performance and someone doing something to someone else. Sex in the real world involves mutual desire and affection as well as other feelings and emotions.

You might find the following discussion points useful

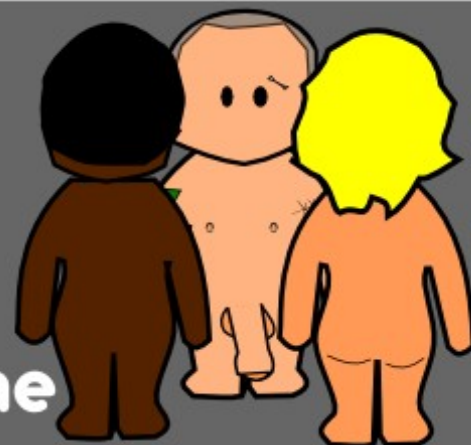
- Does watching porn or sexy modelling have an effect on how those watching it feel about their own bodies or how they work? Can these images make people feel good or bad about themselves?
- Can people learn how to have sex from watching porn? Is this a good idea? What would people learn if they only learnt about sex from porn? How else do people learn about sex?
- What does porn teach about how to be a man or how to be a woman, or gender generally? What does it teach about how to be lesbian, gay or bisexual?
- What kind of people do we not see in porn? Do people with a disability appear in porn? Why not?
- If porn was made for women, what would it be like? Do women like porn as much as men?
- Do you think that porn performers can have feelings for their co-star? Why do we not hear about relationships or feelings or emotions in porn?



Where sex is  
always about  
the penis



Where most  
people like to  
do it with one  
person at a time



Where sex is mainly  
about what men want

Where people waste  
no time in taking  
their clothes off



Where everyone's  
boundaries are  
agreed in advance

Where housewives are  
always bored and  
sexually frustrated

### **Where sex is always about the penis**

In porn featuring penises the focus is usually on the penis and how much pleasure it is getting. Remember that porn is visual and most people who make porn assume that it will be men watching it.

In real life visual stimulation is a very small part of what makes sex sexy. Why is porn aimed at men? Does it matter how much the women in porn are enjoying sex?

### **Where most people like to do it with one person at a time**

In porn, group sex is very popular. But in the real world people usually only like having sex with one person at a time. Group sex is popular in porn because more people means there is more going on. Real life sex is usually intimate, close and personal: porn sex is entertainment. Is it possible for people to enjoy group sex in the real world? What problems might there be with having sex with more than one person?

### **Where sex is mainly about what men want**

Most porn is made for men, so the performers are directed to do what the studios think that male viewers want to watch. But what about the real world? Is sex mainly about what men want? What do women want from sex? Discuss.

### **Where people waste no time in taking their clothes off**

Apart from a very small amount of porn where actors keep their clothes on (for people who like that kind of thing), clothes are removed pretty quickly in porn. Also the lights are always on really bright. In the real world people take their time undressing each other and they turn the lights down or off so that they feel less self-conscious.

### **Where everyone's boundaries are agreed in advance**

In porn, sexy modelling and in any kind of sex work, the limits of what they will and won't do are agreed in advance.

Can people set sexual boundaries in real world, in real sexual relationships? How can these boundaries be set in advance? Do you think that might be a good idea?

### **Where housewives are always bored and sexually frustrated**

This is another one of those silly stereotypes that have been around in porn for years. Other female stereotypes in porn are sexy nurses, naughty teachers, horny secretaries etc. Is this harmless fun, or is it harmful and sexist? Do you think porn has an impact in the real world, or do the viewers know that it's just entertainment (like wrestling).

Where people  
pretend  
to enjoy sex

Where pizza  
delivery  
guys just  
deliver pizza



Where people are  
often not really  
turned on

Where everyone  
always orgasms

Where men are  
usually in control

Where people talk  
about their feelings

## Where people pretend to enjoy sex

Everything is exaggerated in porn so when they have sex on camera they act to make it look like it's the best sex ever, even when it isn't, or they are thinking about the gas bill, or what they are having for their tea.

Do people pretend to enjoy sex in the real world? Why might that be? Should they?

## Where everyone always orgasms

In the real world not everyone has an orgasm from penetrative sex. Lots of men and women need stimulation with hands in order to orgasm. Orgasms are fantastic but they don't always happen and it doesn't mean that sex isn't enjoyable.

In porn they exaggerate how much they are enjoying it and the guys have to orgasm (or they get another guy who can).

## Where pizza delivery guys just deliver pizza

There are lots of occupations in porn where people have more sex than the average person. Pizza delivery people (used to be milk men back in the day), gardeners, plumbers, taxi drivers, firemen all seem to 'get lucky' very often. Whilst this may be true for a small number of people in these occupations, I wouldn't suggest applying for a job just because you think you might get lots of sex.

## Where men are usually in control

Most porn is made by men for other men. So the people with the power in the porn industry are those that fund and sell the films. Also in amateur porn films it's always the guy holding camera or controlling what happens. More women are watching and making porn, so this is changing. Why is porn made for men? Can women enjoy porn? Why don't more women make porn? What would woman made porn be like?

## Where people are often not really turned on

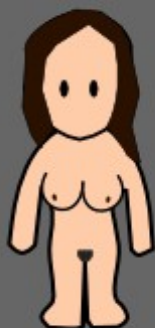
Male porn performers have to be able to maintain an erection and have sex or they don't get paid. Back in the day it was difficult to find male performers with big willies who could stay hard, but nowadays actors often rely on Viagra. In the real world sometimes guys lose their erection, it's fine, and it really does happen to all guys.

## Where people talk about their feelings

Porn performers probably do talk about their feelings but not on camera. Porn is all about the sex, it's a fantasy for people watching and in fantasies sex can be meaningless, can just happen with anyone with no consequences and it's always perfect. What about the real world? Can sex change relationships? Can sex lead to big time feelings? Or do big time feelings lead to sex? What do *you* think?



Where people usually  
keep their pubes



Where sex is  
close and  
meaningful



Where penetration is  
always the most  
important thing



Where sex seems  
to last for ages

Where people only  
ever talk about sex



Where sex is  
always  
very loud





## **Where people usually keep their pubes**

Pubes are important. They help to lubricate and protect genitals to prevent rashes and friction burns during sex. Some people think that they also emit pheromones - our own natural scent which makes us attractive to other people.

Pubes are often either shaved off completely in porn or trimmed till they are very short. This is so people can see what's going on. It can also make penises look bigger.

## **Where sex is close and meaningful**

People who work in porn often have love partners, people that they have meaningful and close sex with. They often say that they prefer this kind of sex to work sex.

Do you think it's possible to have sex without it being close and meaningful? Discuss.

## **Where penetration is always the most important thing**

Some people think that sex = penetration, for instance penis in vagina. Other people think that sex is much more than that: kissing, stroking, whispers, hot body rubs, grinding, masturbating, licking, biting, talking, looking, playing etc etc. All this stuff can be really really sexy too, sometimes even better.

What do you think? What's the most important thing?

## **Where sex seems to last for ages**

In professionally made porn the sex may seem to last for ages. Remember it's different from real life because porn is edited. Viewers also expect to see various sex acts and they want value for money (if they've paid for it), this is why it lasts for a long time.

## **Where people only ever talk about sex**

Porn is about sex and although there might be a bit of acting or talking about other stuff, the people paying for it want to be sexually aroused so that's what they will talk about and do.

But in real life it might also feel like people only ever talk about sex. Sex is great and it can be exciting and interesting talking about it: but not all the time! Also not everyone is interested in sex, even though sometimes it might feel compulsory.

## **Where sex is always very loud**

In the real world people sometimes moan and groan when they have sex, but some people are very quiet and just breathe heavily. How much noise someone makes doesn't indicate how much they are enjoying it.

In porn sex is noisy, which at least drowns out the terrible music. Often they are exaggerating the pleasure noises they are making and some people watch it and think that it's hurting. It isn't.

