

Student Worksheet

DIRECTIONS

Read the following news story and answer the reading comprehension and discussion questions. Use additional paper if necessary.

STORY

New Study Supports Abstinence-focused Sexual Education, 02/04/2010

http://www.pbs.org/newshour/extra/features/health/jan-june10/abstinence_02-04.html

READING COMPREHENSION QUESTIONS

1. How might the new study of abstinence-focused sexual education programs affect President Obama's budget?

2. Who is Dr. John Jemmott?

3. What are the different types of sexual education tested in Jemmott's study?

4. What percentage of those in the class emphasizing abstinence began having sex? What percentage of the control group began having sex?

5. What does the Jemmott study say about whether the abstinence-focused approach will protect students against infections?

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS (more research might be needed)

1. Do you think the Jemmott study should affect President Obama's funding of pregnancy-prevention programs? Why or why not?

2. Where do you stand on the debate between Valerie Huber of the National Abstinence Education Association and Sarah Brown of the National Campaign to Prevent Teen and Unplanned Pregnancy?

3. Why might one school district want to teach contraception while another might want to teach that everyone should wait till they are married to have sex?

4. How do celebrities, movies and television affect your thinking about whether teenagers should be having sex?

5. How can you tell whether a scientific study is valid or not? Why do different people interpret the results differently?

Extension Activity

Have students write a 300-500 word essay on this topic providing clear examples. Send your completed editorial to NewsHour Extra (extra@newshour.org). Exceptional essays might be published on our Web site.