



ann arbor youth senate

YOUTH EMPOWERMENT PROJECT
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Aids in Africa Awareness Month Classroom Activities: 10-03

Co-Sponsored by the Africa Project and the Ann Arbor Youth Senate

www.youthempowerment.com/Africa.htm

NOTE: Presentations are to be done in pairs.

INTRODUCTION: (Who has AIDS in the world?)

- 1) One of the pair draws one stick figure before the class on the board.
“This figure represents an estimated 1 million people who have died of AIDS”
- 2) Proceed to draw 19 other stick figures on the board (total of 20 stick figures)
“Over 20 million people in the world have died from AIDS since it’s discovery 20 years ago”
- 3) Draw one large circle around 15 of the stick figures: “15 million of these deaths were Africans”

WHO WE ARE:

- 1) State names, school and grades, say: “We are with the Senate. Join us at weekly meetings at lunchtime.*
- 2) What IS West Africa Project?
The West Africa Project was established a year ago with the Youth Empowerment Project, designed to help with youth to youth peer education in the fight against AIDS in Burkina Faso, West Africa between the teens here in Ann Arbor and teens in Burkina Faso. (See if there is a map and show them where BF is.)
- 3) Why we are here?
 - We are here today to talk to you about helping to save lives. The topic of AIDS in Africa may seem very distant to you because it isn’t something that you deal with everyday, but we have to realize that we are a part of the world and that world issues do concern us. We are here to give you a taste of what the primitive understanding of AIDS is like in West Africa and we are hoping that it will inspire you to want to help.
 - The AIDS situation in Africa has evolved into a crisis. In Burkina Faso young men are returning from the war in Ivory Coast with AIDS. The shame aspect in the villages prevents these men from speaking freely about their disease. They are just beginning to educate their peers, by setting up tables at the marketplaces with information.
 - We have a goal to raise \$40,000 dollars for this project. This money will allow needed youth peer education to be taken to a higher level with more advanced technology so that even the smallest village can be reached and educated with the use of video equipment, laptops and electricity generators.

MYTH in ACTION: (Acting out one of the beliefs about AIDS in Africa that is costing lives)

- 1) Ask each student to take out a piece paper and crumple it (& leave it on his or her desk).
- 2) Presenters grab three people from the audience (one male and two females). Two are husband and wife.
- 3) Instruct the husband to go talk/flirt with the other female.
- 4) That female wears three “HIV” stickers and sticks two onto the flirting husband.
- 5) Instruct the husband to go back to his wife.
- 6) The husband sticks one of his “HIV” stickers onto his wife.
- 7) Physically separate the wife and husband from each other
- 8) Have members of the audience throw paper to “stone” the wife.

“Women who have AIDS are stigmatized as being promiscuous or unfaithful, even if the husband was cheating. People with AIDS are shamed because AIDS is considered a punishment by god(s).

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CLASSROOM ACTIVITY: Putting AIDS in perspective

1. FACT: “80% of children who have AIDS are in Africa”
 - Allow that information to create an impact. Ask for any comments.
 - In twenty years, 11 million children have been orphaned from AIDS, this equals the population of Michigan!

2. Instruct all members of the classroom to stand up. Explain: “Here in this classroom we are going to put AIDS in Africa and related problems into perspective”
 - 70% of you all have AIDS in West Africa: “You probably contracted AIDS from: having unprotected sex, your parents, being in the war, blood to blood contact, and drugs all because you or somebody close to you didn’t know the facts on how to contract AIDS”
 - You are all 15 years old. In Africa, 1/3 of you will die from AIDS. (Sit down)
 - 50% of you standing with AIDS will die from pneumonia, fever, a cold and many other simple diseases. (sit down)
 - 15% of you standing will die of a non-related AIDS disease MMR, TB, & sleeping sickness. (Sit down)
 - Food: there is only 1 pig per 200 people, so 10% are going to die of hunger & malnutrition. (Sit down)
 - The rest of you standing went to war and only 40% of you came home. (Sit down)
 - 1% of you somehow gathered a large sum of money and became rich. The rest of the towns people come to you for money, to ask for favors, and one day you are robbed and killed all because you have slightly more money than anyone else. (Sit down)

 - To those left standing: How do you feel now that you are all alone? How do you think a country can function with these problems being so dominant? What is the obvious most prevalent problem?

CLOSING:

1. Myth Statement: “AIDS is caused by vengeful people using witchcraft.” Ask for comments.

2. **Bringing it home! How you can help:**
 - 1) POP! Give up pop and/or candy for a month. This adds up to 1 dollar a day and 5 dollars a week. The total: 20 dollars for the month of October!
 - 2) Have parents’ match whatever you raise or wish to donate. You can use a credit card on our website.
 - 3) Contribute pocket change (in cafeteria & grade level offices).
 - 4) THE DANCE October 24th after the Huron vs. Pioneer football game @ Huron!!
 - 5) Anymore ideas?

3. How can you get involved?
 - Encourage others to donate and participate
 - The Africa Project has a weekly meeting every Monday night @ 6 PM. For schedule and location, Email info@youthempowerment.com
 - You can meet with the Youth Senate at lunch time weekly in your school.*

Questions? Email: Africamonth@youthempowerment.com or call our office: 761-3003

Want more info? Go to our website: www.youthempowerment.com/africa.htm

(Write the website on the board)

* Senate meetings are weekly at lunchtime: PHS on Wednesdays in Room C227; HHS on Mondays in the room to the side of the Media Center (early and late lunch); CHS on Thursdays in Craft Theater.