
Coexist



Summary

Coexist is a pedagogy that deconstructs teenagers' stereotypes in middle and high schools during a two hour workshop since 2004.

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In the context of (background)

In 2004, the pastor of Nazareth (Israel) organized a trip to Auschwitz, inviting French organizations and young people of different faiths. During that journey, some organizations became aware of the rising tensions between communities in France and the urging need of a space of dialogue at school.

Type of tool

Activité

Topics addressed

Apprentissage interculturel

Duration

90-120 min

Target group

We target teenagers from 13 to 17 years old. Our workshops take place in middle and high schools, with a whole class (between 20 and 30 pupils).

Aim

Our aim is to push the teenagers to become aware of their stereotypes and to keep questioning themselves about the way they judge other people. This consciousness could lead to decreasing the expression of violence throughout the society.

Objectives

The teenagers get to have a free speech area with Coexist. We allow them to express themselves without any taboo. At the end of the workshop, we invite them to be more critical about everything they hear around them and to think twice before they put labels on people.

Methodology

Two young and trained volunteers go to the classes. They give to the pupils a list of words : man, woman, black, arab, homosexual, immigrant, jewish, etc. Next to these words, we ask the teenagers to put the first word that comes to their mind, without thinking. Then, in small groups, they discuss with their peers about the words that each one put. Then, they draw on a big sheet of paper some stereotypes they wrote or what their debates inspired them. Finally, our two volunteers will start to deconstruct the stereotypes by showing the pupils that their representations of others aren't true. They explain to them how a stereotype is created and how it's spread in the society.

Materials and resources

List of words for each pupil and big sheets of paper with pencils.

Evaluation

Since its creation in 2014, Coexist intervenes in 150 classes in France every year. At the end of each year, we organize a meeting with the teachers that welcomed Coexist in their schools in order to evaluate the tool. In general, teachers ask Coexist to come more than once in a year.

Notes for further use

We can perfectly adapt this tool outside of France and we are ready to help people to do so. I would like to share the tool at the WORKING WITH THE TOOLS workshop and present it only. We've been using this tool for the past 10 years.

Documents/Handhouts

CoExist-présentation-livret.pdf

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