



ACTIVITY 2 CASE STUDIES

SUMMARY: students will analyse cases in order to explore and combat gender stereotypes and homophobia

MATERIALS:

- Case studies in a powerpoint presentation

DURATION: 55 minutes

INSTRUCTIONS:

- Explain to the students that you would like to explore some incidents and you would like their opinion.
- Present each case study to the students in a powerpoint and encourage discussion.
- After reading each case, ask students to answer and discuss the relevant questions.
- Each case should be analysed for 15 minutes.

CASE STUDY 1: John has recently moved to a different town with his parents, because they found better jobs. As he hadn't had the chance to meet people and make friends yet, he decided to find an extracurricular activity to do after school. He searched for lessons or activities available and he found an incredible offer about some ballet classes. On Wednesday, after school, he went to enrol to the lessons. When he entered the class, the girls that were already there were really surprised and staring at him. After he explained that he wanted to attend the lessons, the girls started pointing at him, laughing. The teacher did not react at all and looked really surprised. John ran out of the class, crying.

Questions:

- Do you think there are stereotypes in the case of John? Could you mention some?
- How do you think John feels about this situation?
- Do you think that something like that could happen in real life?
- How do you think you would react if something like that happened in your school?

CASE STUDY 2: Laura is running for president of the class. She is really happy that she will have a chance to contribute to the exercise of students' rights and she has made a plan on what she wants to change. One day, five of her male classmates approached her and said *'You can't be the president of our class! You're a girl! Girls cannot be the leaders!'*. Laura was devastated, since she has been trying really hard to find ways in order for all students to be represented by her plan.

Questions:

- Do you think there are stereotypes in the case of Laura? Could you mention some?
- How do you think Laura feels about this situation?
- Do you think that something like that could happen in real life?
- How do you think you would react if something like that happened in your school?

CASE STUDY 3: Paul is a 17year old boy who has been struggling in order to accept himself for the past few years. He understood that he was into boys two years back, but he has been trying to 'fix himself' as he was told. He dated girls, hung out with male classmates and did what other boys his age did. One day, his girlfriend, Sarah, wanted their relationship to go further, but Paul was not into it. Sarah started mocking him and told everyone in their class that he was gay. After one day, the whole school started calling Paul names, telling him that he was a 'weirdo' and that this was not normal.

Questions:

- Do you think there are stereotypes in the case of Paul? Could you mention some?
- How do you think Paul feels about this situation?
- Do you think that something like that could happen in real life?
- How do you think you would react if something like that happened in your school?

After the discussion is over and all case studies have been analysed, explain to the students that each individual can do what they want or have different characteristics, irrespective of the preconceived ideas or the attributed characteristics assigned to females and males. There are no feminine or masculine sports and activities or feminine and masculine characteristics. We should support each individual to do what is best for them and respect their choices. Encourage discussion on the aforementioned topics [10 minutes].