

Getting the Word Out



Grade Level: 3-8

Professions: A variety of health professions **References:** www.healthyhands.com

All HOTT lesson plans are designed with the purpose of increasing students' awareness of the variety of health careers that are available to them. If possible, invite the corresponding health professional into your classroom to discuss his/her occupation. If this is not an option, use the attached sheet(s) to share this/these career(s) with your students.

Purpose: Students will become health communicators by spreading the word on hand hygiene at home, in the community or to a pen or e-mail pal. Students will synthesize their knowledge into persuasive messages and prioritize important health issues.

Materials needed: Art and writing supplies

Duration: 1 - 4 hours (depending on teacher preferences)

Instructions:

- Divide the class into groups of four. Tell each group they are being challenged to come up with a single, focused message about healthy living. Their assignment is to communicate it effectively.
- Help the students to refine their outreach. To whom are they communicating? Whom will the message benefit? What kind of medium would be best? In what languages? Tell the groups that they can let their imaginations run free, as long as they keep the content accurate. For this activity, guide students into projects for which supplies and technology are readily available.
- Encourage groups to assign roles, and work together as a team to accomplish a common goal.
- Assign a specific time period for each group to come up with a poster of the message they want to deliver.
- Pair off each group with another for the purpose of two-way evaluation. The goal is for each group to make a positive contribution to the work of the other. Negativity should be discouraged. Instead, stress strengths. Key statements could be “One thing I really like is...,” “One thing that confuses me is...,” and “One thing I’d like to know more about is...”
- After the evaluation sessions, students prepare their messages in final form and present them to the entire class.
- Have class evaluate each presentation against the following criteria (following the feedback guidelines suggested above):
 - o Was the group’s message clearly communicated during the presentation?
 - o What things were done really well?
 - o What things were confusing? What information could be added to make the presentation more effective?
- After the evaluation sessions, students prepare their messages in final form (poster, etc...) and present them to the entire class.

Possible extensions include:

- Present the messages to the school at large, in appropriate posting places, including the school paper.
- Present messages to friends and family.