Level 6 Interpersonal Relationships - Boundaries in a Relationship

PEEL in Practice: 1300 ideas for quality teaching
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Aim

To raise awareness of influences on the decision about how far to go in a relationship.

I start by dividing students into small groups, butcher's paper and textas provided. Each group is asked to list all the sexual behaviours they can think of that might be part of a relationship. From least intimate to most intimate. We then return to the whole groups and compile a list on the board. I draw a line on the board to form a continuum of intimate behaviour that includes all the examples given. I begin the subsequent discussion by stating that every person has a right to decide where their limit is in any given relationship.

As a whole group, we discuss what happens when two people in a relationship want to be at different places on the continuum. As you would expect, different students, particularly those of different genders have different views, perspectives and experiences here: the students learn a lot from listening to each other’s experiences and opinions. Some pressures such as alcohol, drugs, past experience and expectations come up here.

Students see that compromising forces one person to go further than they feel comfortable with. The relationship should only move as far as the person nearest the least intimate feels comfortable with.