



UNPLANNED PREGNANCY AND COMMUNITY COLLEGES VIDEO DISCUSSION GUIDE FOR STUDENTS

*This guide is intended for **community college students** to spark discussion following a viewing of the video. The idea is to encourage reflection on what they've seen and heard, and sharing of thoughts and reactions. There are a variety of possible settings for a group discussion: classrooms, student clubs, events. The guide might also be used individually for journaling, as an online tool, or for a written classroom assignment. If you are leading the discussion, don't feel you have to use all the questions, use them in this order or stick to the exact words.*

Facts from the video:

- Half of all pregnancies in the United States are unplanned.
- More than half of all unplanned pregnancies are to women in their 20s. That's 1.1 million unplanned pregnancies—more than teenagers have.
- Education is often a casualty of unplanned pregnancy. More than 60% of community college students who have children after enrolling do not finish their education.
- More than one in seven community college students are already single parents. Another unplanned pregnancy could stop success in its tracks.

Discussion questions

1. The video describes a high rate of unplanned pregnancy among people in their twenties. Is this consistent with what you see? Is there more to this issue than you thought?
2. The students talk about people not being serious, about it being a game, about thinking “it won't happen to me.” Was any of this new to you? What ideas about the causes of unplanned pregnancy do you have that you did not hear in the video?
3. Watching the video, what had the most impact on you? The statistics? The personal stories? Something else? Overall, what's your feeling from watching the video?
4. Would you say there is a norm (common practice, custom, rule, standard) in your community (however you define that) about unplanned pregnancy? If so what is it? How about in your family? Among your friends?
5. The video presents the challenges that can follow an unplanned pregnancy—especially finishing school. There's a statistic that more than 60% of community college students who have children while in school don't finish their education.
 - Are you surprised at all by that number?
 - Do you think most students know that level of risk?
 - What would an unplanned pregnancy mean for you at this point in your life?

7. Several women talked very openly about their own unplanned pregnancies. Why do you think they chose to do that? (Note: They were not paid to be in the film.)

8. Close to the end of the video is this line: “Unplanned pregnancy is almost entirely preventable.” What do you think about that?

9. The statement about unplanned pregnancy being preventable is followed by this one: “It takes responsible behavior and responsible policies.” First, some questions about “responsible behavior:”

- What does “responsible behavior” mean to you?
- In general, how responsible *are* people in their twenties when it comes to sex and preventing pregnancy?
- What does it take for people to become *more* responsible? What has to happen?
- Thinking about yourself, are you as responsible as you’d like to be? What would help you be more responsible (about sex and other things, too)?

The other part of the statement was about needing “responsible policies.”

- “Policies” could mean rules, guidelines, or funding for programs or services. *Where* do we need “responsible policies” and *who* should make them? This may sound like the government – and it could include that. But also think about it more broadly.
- What would responsible policies *say* or do?

10. Some students suggested that community colleges should provide *more information and services* relating to pregnancy prevention.

- How much of a role do you think is played by having wrong or not enough information about how you can get pregnant, and how you can prevent it?
- Focusing on contraception:
 - Where do most people get their information? How reliable is it?
 - Do they know where to get reliable and complete information?
 - What about services such prescriptions, medical exams and tests, and professional advice? Do people look for these and know where to go?
 - Is cost an issue?
 - What’s the best way to give good information and services?
- Some people think that education about forming and keeping healthy relationships is important for reducing unplanned pregnancy.
 - What do you think?
 - There are some good courses and materials that have been developed. Do you think it would be helpful to make these available to students? If so, how?
- Do you have any additional ideas about education and information ?

11. What might you tell a friend about this video, or about something you’ve learned? If you think your friend is at risk of getting pregnant or getting someone pregnant, is there advice you would give based on what you’ve seen and heard?

12. How about yourself? What are you taking away from this video and discussion?

To view the video and for more information, visit the National Campaign’s website at <http://www.thenationalcampaign.org/resources/cc.aspx>.