

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review
Review Date: January 2007

Open Arms? Open Eyes! Power, Control and Abuse in Teen Relationships (2007)

DVD/VHS (28 minutes)

Target Audience: Stated audience: Grades 7-12
Recommended by panel: Grades 6-12

Cost: \$139.95

Distributor: Human Relations Media

41 Kensico Drive, Mount Kisco, NY 10549 • 914-666-9151 • www.hrmvideo.com

The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends** use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary

The video *Open Arms? Open Eyes!* identifies the warning signs in teen relationships that set the stage for adult domestic violence. The video uses high school scenarios, dialogue and situations. The intent of the video is to raise awareness about healthy and unhealthy relationships, to identify signs of abuse, and to introduce the effects of abusive relationships. The packet contains a video, resource guide, and handouts including pre- and post-tests.

The panel recommends the video *Open Arms? Open Eyes!* for the following reasons:

- Provides good information on abusive relationships (emotional and physical) and how to identify red flags.
- Video format allows students to visualize and “experience” warning signs as presented by teens.
- Emphasizes clear message that violence in relationship is bad and should not be tolerated.
- Provides good information on positive social pressures (e.g. talking with friends and loved ones about dating).
- Addresses the need for building communication skills with some very good examples for modeling.
- Guide provides follow-up activities to emphasize messages.

The panel expressed the following concerns about the video *Open Arms? Open Eyes!:*

- There are a few examples of confusing and harmful messages that were perceived as “blaming the victim” for the abuse (e.g. a psychologist states that “being abused is a choice”).
- No information or help for the abuser; focus only on victims.
- Include more examples of positive or healthy relationships. Discussion guide includes some information.
- Due to the sensitive nature of the topic a facilitator with strong content knowledge and facilitation skills is recommended.

Overall the panel **recommends** the video *Open Arms? Open Eyes!* and the supplemental materials. Panel members conclude that the video shares important information regarding abusive relationships including identification of “red flags” and emphasis on communication skill development. It should be noted that some panel members could not recommend the video due to examples/messages of “blaming the victim” for being involved in an abusive relationship. If these were deleted, all panel members would have approved the video for the intended audience.

Open Arms? Open Eyes! Power, Control and Abuse in Teen Relationships (2007)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about teen sexual health, e.g., risks of teen sexual activity, ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs, human growth and development, relationships, etc.	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Good info on abusive relationships (emotional and physical) and how to identify red flags. No information for the abuser. The psychologist blames the victim for “choosing” to stay in a violent relationship. Discussion guide includes info. on <u>healthy</u> relationships, but no modeling in the video.
Focus - Focuses on ways to promote sexual health e.g., reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection; understanding healthy physical/emotional development; developing healthy relationships, etc.	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Focused on both emotional and physical abuse. Focused on red flags. Gives good warning signs, more could be shown. Could focus on positive relationships– what they look like.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Consistent that abuse is bad, however is unclear about what you can do. Said over and over about telling an adult, get out, leave early. Inconsistent and confusing messages about the cycle of violence and victim-blaming. Delivers the message that abuse victims choose to be abused, implying that it’s their fault. NOT a good message. Very problematic.
Addresses Social Pressures – Video demonstrates social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows social pressures well. Good using groups of friends show how important friends are to dating. Could give more positive social pressures. Addresses gender stereotypes. Shows peers saying “oh, but he’s so cute.”
Guide includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	3.8	
Communication Skills – Video provides examples of being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc.	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Some very good communication skills but little about getting out of an unhealthy relationship. Good examples and modeling of varied situations. Emphasis throughout that you should talk with friends, family or others you trust about the situation.
Guide includes activities to practice assertive skills, negotiation and refusal skills, decision-making skills, etc.	3.6	
Teaching Methods - Engages participants and helps them personalize information.	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Okay. Variety of activities in the guide. Good hosting by teens.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students (as stated by publisher.)	n/a	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Recommend 6-12th grade. Not college students.
Multicultural Perspective – This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Shows lots of youth, in multiple settings, races, etc. in many roles. Same sex relationships addressed in video and use of the word partner but does not include a same sex scenario.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> More instructions for setting up activities would be helpful. Guide doesn’t give a lot of detail, but would work if you know basics.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Topic could be very emotional. Facilitator needs to be able to counter the victim- focused messages with discussion about abusers.
Presentation Quality – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Current and realistic. Acting is good.
Overall Recommendation		<p>Recommend Highly - 0 Recommend – 12 Reject – 4</p>