

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review

Today I Found Out (2001)

Video: (9 minutes)

Target Audience: Teens

Cost: \$50.00

Scenarios USA

44W 28th Street, 7th floor, New York, NY 10001 • 212-252-9090 • <http://www.scenariosusa.com>

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

Review Summary:

“Today I Found Out” is a video written and acted by teens as part of the series, SenariosUSA. “Today I Found Out” tells the story of a 14-year-old girl who tries to make sense of the world around her when she finds out her best friend is pregnant. This nine minute video deals with abstinence, peer pressure, and self-awareness. It sends a clear message about abstinence and the consequences of becoming pregnant, but does not include any discussion of ways to prevent pregnancy.

The panel felt that the strength of the video lay in its use as a springboard for conversation on teen pregnancy, abstinence, pregnancy options, peer pressure and the impact of cultural values and expectations (particularly Latino/Hispanic). They felt that although not addressed in the video, it could lead into a discussion of contraception and STIs.

“Today I Found Out” was filmed in the Texas/Mexico border town of Laredo. The setting and actors are predominantly Latino, making it particularly appropriate for Latino youth in middle and high school.

Though limited in its message, the panel felt that “Today I Found Out” could be a useful resource as part of a broader, more comprehensive program.

Today I Found Out (2003)
Scenarios USA

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about the risks of teen sexual activity and about ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No mention of STI's or birth control. No messages about protected sex. ▪ Abstinence messages only. Not comprehensive but good. Could be used as part of a more comprehensive program. ▪ Shows risk of unplanned pregnancy and some challenges of young mothering
Focus - Focuses on reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection.	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Abstinence focused ▪ Does not include information on contraception, STD's/HIV and how to have protected sex.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message about abstaining from sexual activity and/or using condoms or other forms of contraception.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear abstinence message. Somewhat fear-based. ▪ No discussion on birth control.
Addresses Social Pressures - Includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	4.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addresses pressures from one's culture and from males.
Communication Skills - Provides examples of and practice with communication, negotiation and refusal skills	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Not a part of the short video ▪ Could be a part of follow up discussion
Teaching Methods - Employs a variety of teaching methods designed to involve participants and have them personalize the information.	NA	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does include a discussion guide with good questions.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students.	4.2	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Appropriate specifically for Latino youth – middle and senior high.
Multicultural Perspective - Does this resource address the needs of communities of color; and/or issues of sexual orientation, gender, and disability?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Culturally specific for Latino youth. ▪ Could be used in other groups with supplement activities.
Addresses needs of diverse learners.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ No specific adaptations.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	3.1	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Needs preparation beyond the guide.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Requires a leader with strong content knowledge and group leading skills. ▪ Facilitator needs to be able to lead follow-up discussion on birth control, relationships, communication etc.
Presentation Quality – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?	4.3	
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly –2 ▪ Recommend - 12 ▪ Reject - 0