



# INFORMED CONSUMERS – THE ENVIRONMENTAL TALK SHOW

## Grade 8, Language

Source: Adapted from Talk Show, Earth Day Canada's EcoKids Program.

### DESCRIPTION

Students will select and research an environmental issue that interests them. In small groups, they will write, film, and produce a talk show that explores their issue in a creative and informative way.

### CURRICULUM LINKS – LANGUAGE, GRADE 8

Media Literacy

Overall Expectations: 1,2,3

Specific Expectations: 1.1, 2.1, 2.2, 3.1, .3.3, 3.4

### PLANNING NOTES

#### Materials

- Camera (with video recording)/group
- Computer(s) with access to an editing program
- Talk show clip

#### Learning Skills & Work Habits

Responsibility, collaboration, organization, self-regulation

#### Recommended Class Time

- +5 class periods

#### Prior Learning

Students should be familiar with the impact of consumption and consumerism on the Earth. Informed consumers can have a positive impact on the environment by making wise purchase choices.

Students will also have some experience with oral presentations and dramatic skits. They should be able to summarize what they read/watch and identify key points.

### TEACHING/LEARNING STRATEGIES

1. As a class, read an article about an environmental issue related to consumption/consumerism and identify the main points. Ask students why they believe the key points are important and how they would present them to an audience.
2. Ask the students what talk shows they are familiar with. Show them a talk show clip and discuss its key elements (opening music, intro of guest, interview questions, etc.).
3. Review how to write a script and the core components – setting, characters, show rationale, etc.
4. Ask the students to discuss with a partner how they would present the earlier environmental article in a talk show format.
5. After hearing their ideas, explain that they are going to create a three to five minute video to promote the idea of “informed consumers”. In groups, they will first have to come up with a specific topic and conduct research.
6. Students will use their research to create a talk show script. The script should include:
  - A one to two minute solo speech where the talk show host introduces the environmental issue and the key components of the theme of the show
  - At least two interviews with key information providers for their topic (researchers, celebrities, community members, etc. – these could be real or acted)
  - All parts of the script must link the environmental issue and should be reviewed before filming
  - Encourage students to use props and costumes
7. After filming, ask students to reflect on why it is important for talk show hosts to inform people of environmental issues. Are talk shows a good way to promote these issues? What other media platforms might be effective in getting environmental messages across to the public?

### EXTENSION

**Talk show screening:** Hold a screening event to showcase all the talk show clips. Ask students to dress up and introduce their videos. Invite other classes and/or the administration to watch and give feedback. Have eco-snacks and drinks in reusable cups for the audience members.