**Respecting Others (Grade 11)**

Learning Target: I can identify 2 ways to deal with stereotypes.

**Activity**: What Do You Know or What Have You Heard?

Materials: Large sheets of newsprint, tape, markers, wall space (or another large surface)

Directions:

* Have students label the top of each sheet of newsprint with the name of a different type of person or group

(examples: “teenagers”, “freshmen”, “women”, “men”, “the homeless”, etc.)

* Fold each sheet of paper so the label is hidden
* Tape the folded paper to the flat surface, leaving space between each folded paper.
* You may choose to introduce this activity with a brief discussion about culture and its impact on our behavior.
  + - Be sure to point out that culture is something we begin learning as very young children, that the rules of our culture are often not written but are learned from those around us, and that as children we generally accept these rules without question.
* Have students visit each folded paper (by themselves or in small groups.)
* Have students unfold the paper and using a marker, write something they “know” or have heard about that group of people on the newsprint.
* Ask students to note anything other people have written (Or go through the lists as a group)

**Reflection:**

1. What do many of the things on the list about what we “know” or have heard represent?
2. Are they all true?
3. What is a “stereotype”?
4. How do stereotypes develop?
5. How are stereotypes reinforced?
6. Have you ever experienced a time where someone has assumed something about you, based on a stereotype? Describe it.
7. How do stereotypes about a group impact that group?
8. We all use stereotypes, so how can we make ourselves more aware of the stereotypes we use?
9. How can we respect others and their individuality when we have been conditioned to believe certain stereotypes?