**HIV & AIDS AWARENESS**

**(Grade 12)**

Learning Target: I can describe events that may leave me or someone I know exposed to the HIV virus.

**Directions:**

* Read the following true story. This happened to a close friend. Situations like this are not uncommon today.
* After reading this true story, reflect on the events that occurred.

(This story is being shared to spread awareness, not fear)

**True events**:

At the age of 16, a close friend of mine was working at a fast food restaurant. One evening, one of her co-workers, Pete, asked her for a ride home.

Always willing to help others, she drove him home. He invited her inside, and that ride home turned into a sexual encounter.

My friend asked Pete to wear a condom. He didn’t have any. In spite of the pressure he placed on her, she continued to demand he wear a condom. Few stores were open at that time in the evening, but because of her demands, he located one and purchased a condom.

Seven months later, Pete discovered he was HIV positive. My friend found out through one of his friends. He had seemed perfectly healthy, and he continued to appear perfectly healthy as he engaged in sexual encounters with other women, most of who, did not ask for him to wear a condom.

Today, my friend is living a great life, happy, healthy. Pete has passed away from complications from AIDS.

**Reflection:**

1. Is any part of this story similar to something you have experienced? (Giving someone a ride home? Having a sexual encounter? Asking for a condom? Finding out someone was HIV positive?..... don’t feel obligated to answer, but please think about how common these events are)
2. What do you think is the most important preventive measure against HIV?
3. Do you think most people are prepared to protect themselves? Why or why not?
4. Suppose you were in a situation where you didn’t have a condom and all stores were closed, what do you think you should do?... What do you think you would do? Explain.
5. Do all people know when they have been exposed to the HIV virus? Why or why not?
6. Do you think all individuals who carry the HIV virus are conscious of it? Why or why not?
7. Do you think an individual who carries the HIV virus may be hesitant to share this information with his/her sexual partner for fear of being labeled or stigmatized? Explain.
8. If someone has a sexual encounter without protection, what should that person do in order to protect him/herself AND other people he/she may have sexual contact with?