

# *Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Instructional Materials Review*

## Consent Explained (Amaze)

**Year Published/Revised:** 2016

**Publisher:** Amaze

**Website:** <https://amaze.org/video/consent/>

**Full or Supplemental:** Supplemental

**Grade Level:** Middle School (6-8)

**Student Population:** General

**Duration/Number of Lessons:** One video; 1:36 minutes

**Format and Features:** Online video, discussion questions and overview, lesson plans, information provided for educators, youth and parents/guardians

**Evidence-based/informed:** Not indicated

**National Standards Alignment:** Yes – National Sexuality Education

**Consistent with WA Health Education Standards?** Yes

**Consistent with Comprehensive Sexual Health Education Law?** No

**Consistent with AIDS Omnibus Act?** N/A

**Inclusive Materials/Strategies:** Yes

**Bias-Free Materials:** No



## Primary Subject Areas and Topics Required by Law:

- Anatomy and Physiology, Reproduction, and Pregnancy (Pregnancy for Grade 6+)
- Growth and Development/Puberty
- Self-Identity (gender stereotypes, gender identity, sexual orientation, etc.)
- Prevention (general)
  - HIV/AIDS Prevention
  - Pregnancy Prevention
  - STD Prevention
  - Health Care and Prevention Resources
- Healthy Relationships (general)
  - Affirmative Consent
  - Bystander Training
  - Intrapersonal and Interpersonal Communication Skills for Healthy Relationships
  - The development of meaningful relationships and avoidance of exploitative relationships
  - Understanding the influences of family, peers, community, and the media throughout life on healthy sexual relationships

## Reviewer Comments:

### *Reviewer 103*

I'm unclear as to the grade level as some of the information is marked as 6-8 and other information doesn't have any grade level information. I have used some of this material at the high school level.

I like the videos as a supplement to a sex education unit as they are relatable to the students in a manner that is easy to understand.

### *Reviewer 107*

Consent Explained: What is it?

Overall, Amaze has comprehensive sexual health information that is sex positive and medically accurate. Their illustrations are creative and engaging. The video, Consent Explained, is a simple and clear video of what consent is and is not. While the sports metaphor is not something that will appeal to all youth, it accurately describes consent in terms that is easy to understand for even young children. There was diversity in terms of race, but it is disappointing they chose to illustrate one of the few Black women represented as drunk and sexualized with oversized lips that catch a hockey puck in her mouth. She is knocked down violently, and the other Black



character is also knocked down violently. This video is an easy way to explain consent to young people, but I would think twice about sharing it due to the microaggressions previously listed.

*Reviewer 111*

Some minority groups are stereotypically represented. Amaze does a good job of using inclusive language that is gender neutral. The lesson plan is very detailed and gives a word for word script.

*Reviewer 114*

While the content was accurate, I found the presentation to be too rapid and visually distracting to personally use this material. It also modeled a lot of what consent is NOT and not a lot of what consent IS. Images of people having their boundaries and consent violated (non-sexually) are treated as a joke. I do not find this material to be rooted in positive social norms or positive youth development.

Supplemental materials: discussion questions but no guide. I like the parent materials. Linked lesson plans are high quality from Rutgers and 3Rs.

*Reviewer 116*

The value in this AMAZE video really comes from the supplemental discussion questions, FAQ's and sample lesson plans provided. Consent is such a foundational component of sexual health education, to simply present it to students in a 1:46 video without additional activities would not meet the standards of comprehension or demonstration of knowledge. The video attempts to pack a lot of examples and analogies of what consent is and is not, and could serve as a starting point for developing comprehension of consent, but it also leaves a fair amount of responsibility on the classroom teacher to scaffold group discussion and activities. If I were in a position where my assigned middle school sexual health curriculum did not include a specific chapter on consent, this AMAZE video and sample lesson plan would provide enough materials that I could confidently incorporate it into my unit.

*Reviewer 108*

There is a clear definition of consent, and it contextualizes consent outside of sex with realistic examples, although the ones used may not be familiar or applicable to a wide audience. This video also depicts racial and gender stereotypes and can be harmful imagery which would need to be supplemented with ample discussion and debrief.

*Reviewer 112*

This supplemental material contains stereotypes and racial biases. I feel strongly that the message of consent is lost in the midst of inappropriate images and cultural segregation. The parts of this video that stand out to me are the only person who is portrayed as "under the influence" is a black person. When discussing role models and "trusted adults" all the adults shown are white, except for the black coach. In the height of ensuring curricula and educational material are culturally appropriate and sensitive to all people without bias, oppression or stereotypes, this curriculum is significantly lacking.



*Reviewer 115*

The video does use some racially biased representations. Otherwise, the material is easy to understand and age appropriate.

*Reviewer 118*

While I enjoy the Amaze productions (free, online, general neutrality on race and other protected classes, well explained digestible educational content etc.) this video did not stand out to me as one of their best, it is very short which may be appealing as a brief opener to a lesson on consent, however I would use other tools to open up a dialogue especially for the older 6-12th grade youth, like Planned Parenthood's "I love F.R.I.E.S" consent tool - which is about 5-10 mins and is much more informative, and can be done without Internet if the acronym is communicated in text/print - likewise with the KCSARC online and printable Consent handouts and activities.

The Amaze Consent Explained tool is possibly better suited for the 4,5,6 grade range for violence prevention, and older youth will need more information regarding their rights, resources, and responsibilities as sexual beings in our communities. Elementary aged youth can receive this lesson in age-appropriate ways regarding safe touch/physical autonomy such as with asking for consent for hugs/cuddles and high fives from friends and family. One last draw back that is standard for all audio visuals tools is the lack of access to reliable Internet and technology.

*Reviewer 122*

I would discuss the stereotypes portrayed - good opportunity to practice some critical thinking skills.

*Reviewer 104*

The video is short, engaging, and accessible. It uses plain language that makes the topic accessible to youth from middle school to high school. It uses a cartoon format, which keeps it engaging and makes it feel less 'dated' than live action videos. The sports metaphors are fairly relatable to many people and allow for a wide variety of representation around gender, race, and relationships.

The discussion questions are brief but allow for additional engagement with the material. They specifically draw attention to affirmative consent, as well as laws about sexual violence, and the use of alcohol and drugs.

Educator background information is brief but helpful in providing additional context and to give some additional background for answering questions or fitting the content into a larger unit or even a bigger lesson.

*Reviewer 105*

Video: Uses sports metaphors to explain consent which may connect with some audiences but not all. There is a series of a Black or brown person getting tackled, hit with a ping pong ball in the head then being drunk which felt off. Good emphasis that sexual assault and rape are never



the survivor/victim's fault. Only meets WA state education standard 4 if you use the provided lesson plan.

Supplemental materials: excellent framing on the AMAZE website for educators, youth, and parents. The educator section recommends good discussion questions and two lesson plans. One lesson plan is from Advocates for Youth and part of the 3Rs curriculum. You may want to consider that it is part of a series of lessons. The other is from Rutgers and costs \$1.99 to access.

*Reviewer 106*

This video is short and direct, using sports as an analogy. There are accompanying materials (explanations and discussion questions) for youth, parents, and educators.

*Reviewer 110*

This video compares sexual consent to consent in nonsexual situations. It discusses laws around consent and talks about the role of drugs and alcohol. I also appreciate how the video emphasizes that the victim is never at fault.

*Reviewer 101*

Universal - not okay to rape, assault or hurt others. Acceptability Analysis: some could view racial bias in that person who is under the influence is of Black descent and female.

*Reviewer 119*

The vignettes used in the video are effective in making the points in the learning objectives. The lesson plan does well in covering the objectives through an interesting video, engaging students in interactive discussion, engaging parents to bring the learning home, and making the connection to outside resources. I appreciated the conversation starters for parents. Especially, asking your child before kissing or hugging them for their permission. This is something that can be started at a very early age long before 6-8th grade.

