

The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

Classroom Connections: Gender Stereotypes

Grade Levels: High School (adaptable to other levels)



Addy McKerns

Art teacher Addy McKerns of Twin Valley High School in Elverson, PA, developed an activity within a unit based on gender identity for her high school students. While studying gender stereotypes, she asked students to consider what they might actually learn to do if gender stereotypes did not play a role in their life. Students filled out a worksheet in which they reflected on an activity or skill they would undertake if they didn't let such cultural biases hold them back. After collecting and reviewing her students' responses, with the help of other teachers and departments in her school, McKerns created experiences in which all of her students were given the opportunity to take on these "other-gender" tasks. The students discussed their reactions to this assignment and how it affected their ideas about gender stereotyping. This is a wonderful action-based approach to help students understand why the message of *The Dinner Party* is still relevant today.

The Dinner Party Curriculum Project

Gender Stereotypes Worksheet

By Addy McKerns

Student Name: _____

If I did not let gender stereotypes play a role in my life I would definitely learn how to...
