



Manitoba Addictions Awareness Week

What Would You Do?

Gambling Classroom Activity:

Gambling -Activity 1

Widespread legalized gambling has become a fact of life in North America today. In light of this, gambling is a topic that Manitoba youth need to know more about. These scenarios allow students to reflect upon and research an issue that might have an impact on their lives.

Gambling Situation # 1:

Mark is in Senior 3. Almost every weekend Mark and three other friends get together to play cards. The bets are relatively small... only five or ten cents are bet on each hand.

On this particular night, one of Mark's friends invited another student along to play. Joel is a new student at school this year. Just as they were beginning to play, Joel threw \$5 in the pot and said, "Hey let's make it more interesting!" Mark really can't afford to lose that amount of money but doesn't want to look cheap or scared to play.

1. What are Mark's options in this situation?
2. If Mark chooses not to gamble, how might he stay with the group and still save "face"?
3. Could Mark's decision influence or hurt others?

Gambling Situation # 2:

Emily is 17 and in Senior 4. Both of Emily's parents regularly buy lottery tickets and play the VLTs when they go out for the evening. On several occasions they have won from \$200 to \$300 and out of these winnings, have bought Emily something she wants, usually clothes. Emily is not sure how much they spend on gambling because they've never really talked about it.

Emily has been going out with Julian and recently they broke up. They had gone out together for about a year. The breakup happened over something Emily considers a "little misunderstanding that has gotten all blown up". Emily is still quite hurt and down about the breakup.

Coming up from school one day, Emily passes a hotel with VLTs and thinks, "Maybe I should go in and try my luck...."

1. What are Emily's options in this situation?
2. What should Emily consider in order to make a decision?
3. Who, if anyone is likely to be affected by Emily's decision?
4. What might Emily be thinking or feeling that might influence her decision to gamble or not to gamble?

Activity from the Addictions Foundation of Manitoba school program *Keeping your shirt on, 1999.*

For additional information or to book a gambling awareness session from *Keeping your shirt on*, contact your local AFM office.