

Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel

Summary of Panel Review
Review Date: September 2004

Silence Ain't Sexy (2004)

Format: Video (28 min)

Target Audience: Ages 13-18

Cost: \$100.00

Pinch Me Films, Inc.

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The Minnesota Sexuality Education Resource Review Panel **Recommends** the use of this video for the following reasons and with the following reservations:

Review Summary:

Silence Ain't Sexy highlights modern teens speaking candidly about sex. This documentary infuses a dramatic scene between two young people attempting to talk about how "far to go" in their relationship, with fast paced interviews, and a hip-hop music video. *Silence Ain't Sexy* reinforces the overall message that it is important to "stop, think and talk before you have sex." Articulate teens discuss important issues about sexuality, including talking to parents and peers, the media's influence on teen behavior, and the highs and lows of sexual relationships. This video does not contain much factual information, but rather focuses on decision-making and healthy relationships.

This film states that it was created for youth ages 13-19, however the panel felt that it would be better suited for youth 15 and older. They found some of the language, messages, and activities inappropriate for a younger audience. They expressed concern that the actors and their experiences may be too mature for 7th and 8th grade students.

The panel did feel, however, that the video would be well received by a broad audience of high school students and/or adults. The panel felt that teens would find the characters "real" and would relate well to their stories and experiences. They were impressed by the diversity of the youth represented in terms of race, ethnicity, sexual orientation, and perspective.

As is true with all resource materials, this video should be viewed before it is used. It is likely to prompt strong, heated discussions that require thoughtful leadership and group skills. In addition, some groups/settings may be concerned by the fact that the video contains a scene of a young woman wearing a bra and jeans. The group leader will need to practice coordinating the video with the activity guide. The video is designed to be broken down into segments, with breaks taken for conversation and group activities. It is not clear, however, when the breaks are to take place.

Overall, the panel **recommends** the use of *Silence Ain't Sexy*.

Silence Ain't Sexy (2004)

Assessment Criteria	Mean Score	Comments
Accuracy of Information - Provides basic, accurate information about teen sexual health, e.g., risks of teen sexual activity, ways to avoid intercourse or use methods of protection against pregnancy and STDs, human growth and development, relationships, etc.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Does not include much factual content - focuses on decision- making. ▪ What is said is accurate, but the intent of this video is to address decision-making, not to give STI and pregnancy prevention statistics and information.
Focus - Focuses on ways to promote sexual health e.g., reducing one or more sexual behaviors that lead to unintended pregnancy or HIV/STD infection; understanding healthy physical/emotional development; developing healthy relationships, etc.	3.6	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Clear focus on communication and healthy relationships. ▪ Supports both the decision to remain abstinent and the decision to have sex and use protection. ▪ Mentions condom use but not other methods of birth control.
Messages - Delivers and consistently reinforces a clear message, e.g., states message multiple times in multiple ways.	3.3	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Communicates message many ways -through song, stories, humor, rhyme, and activities. ▪ Many messages about healthy and unhealthy sexual behavior - perhaps too many. Not always clear what the primary message is.
Addresses Social Pressures Video demonstrates social pressures that influence sexual behavior. Guide includes activities that address social pressures that influence sexual behavior.	4.1 3.9	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Addresses social pressures, double standards for males and females, mixed messages in the media, and the incorrect assumption that the vast majority of teens are having sex . ▪ Helpful to have this issue addressed directly by teens. ▪ Good activities in the guide to discuss social pressures.
Communication Skills Video provides examples of being assertive, using negotiation and refusal skills, making decisions, etc. Guide includes activities to practice assertive skills, negotiation and refusal skills, decision-making skills, etc.	2.4 3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video shows one example of a couple communicating. Shows assertive young people and highlights the importance of being ready. Most of the examples given, however, are of teens discussing decisions they regretted. ▪ Guide contains some good activities, e.g., practice with negotiation skills, refusal skills, role-play, etc.
Teaching Methods - Engages participants and helps them personalize information	3.8	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Teens in video are appealing and real – would engage teens. ▪ Activities in study guide would engage participants.
Appropriateness for Audience - Incorporates behavioral goals, teaching methods, and materials that are appropriate to the age, sexual experience, and culture of the students (as stated by publisher.)	2.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Age range too large. May be more suited for older teens, 15 and up.. Could work for younger teens depending on setting but includes some inappropriate language, uses older looking actors, and guide includes activities that may be too mature for 13-4 year olds.
Multicultural Perspective – This resource is most appropriate for the following audiences.		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Highlights the perspectives of real youth from diverse backgrounds. Would appeal to ethnically diverse audiences from urban, suburban, rural areas. Includes GLBT identified youth. Could be used in corrections setting with high-risk youth, alternative settings.
Teacher-Friendly - Is well organized with clear, thorough instructions or discussion guide. Minimal assembly or preparation time required.	3.5	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ It is designed to be viewed in segments with breaks for discussion and group activities, however, it is confusing to determine when to pause the video. Would be helpful to have a prompt on the screen.
Facilitation Skills Required - How knowledgeable and skilled must the facilitator be to use this resource effectively?		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Would require moderate to strong facilitation skills. ▪ Could prompt heated, controversial discussions.
Presentation Quality – How appealing is the product (e.g. visual quality, sound quality, graphics, etc.) ?	3.7	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Video is good. Guide is a bit confusing and contains some errors and inconsistencies. ▪ Video intentional has a less polished, MTV look.
Overall Recommendation		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> ▪ Recommend Highly – 1 ▪ Recommend – 10 ▪ Reject - 4