

SOCIOLOGY

UNIT ON AGEISM

Overview: While the process of aging is inevitable, many high school students do not comprehend its scope. By witnessing, observing and investigating this process students can better understand society and their relationship to it.

Purpose: The purpose of this unit on aging is to provide experiences and activities to increase students' understanding and empathy toward elderly people.

Objectives:

1. Describe the changes that occur as people get older.
2. Draw conclusions about similarities and differences between generations.
3. Give a biographical sketch of a senior resident of the community.
4. Describe how life will change for all age groups 50 years from now based on the information gathered in the unit.

Activities:

1. With group (assigned) complete the packet of worksheets on aging.
2. Complete a growth timeline to be continued through old age (10 year span). Include changes that occur in the areas of economic, social, health, and employment (start at age 20; do 20's, 30's, etc.)
3. Interview a senior resident (65 years old or older) on their life from beginning to present. Sample questions will be provided.
4. Write your own obituary.
5. Write a paper on your interview. Tie all knowledge gained through this unit together.

Grading:

Worksheet Packet – 30%

Paper / Interview – 40%

Timeline – 30%

Total Unit: 200 points