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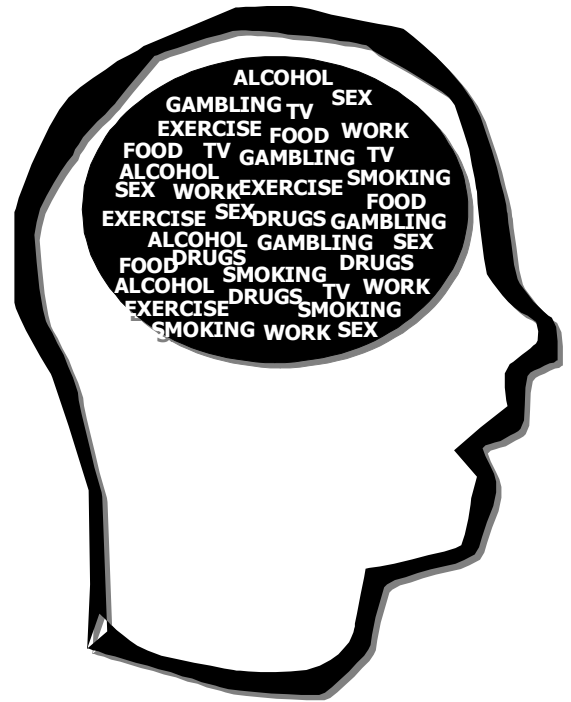
HUMAN ADDICTION: AN INTRODUCTION

NIMCO, INC.

2001

Grade Levels: 10-13+

20 minutes



DESCRIPTION

Explores the complex world of addiction--what it means, what forms it takes, and how many addictions produce endorphins in the brain. Mentions food, alcohol, gambling, drugs, sex, work, exercise, smoking, and television as types of chemical or behavioral addictions--some acceptable, some not.

ACADEMIC STANDARDS

Subject Area: Health

- Standard: Understands aspects of substance use and abuse
 - Benchmark: Understands that alcohol, tobacco, and other drug dependencies are treatable diseases/conditions

INSTRUCTIONAL GOALS

1. To define the meaning of addiction.
2. To clarify the different types of addiction.
3. To examine the causes of addiction.

VOCABULARY

1. adrenaline
2. endorphins
3. morphine
4. neurons
5. nicotine
6. stimulant

AFTER SHOWING

Discussion Items and Questions

1. What does it mean to be addicted to something?
2. What are the different types of addiction?

3. Many addictions are to products that carry a social stigma. What are some addictions that may not normally be thought of as harmful yet people still become addicted to them; i.e., exercise, work, food. Are these addictions less harmful than alcohol, smoking or gambling? Why or why not?
4. The video points out that addiction does not discriminate—addiction crosses all social lines. Compare and contrast addictions in different social settings, i.e. the wealthy accountant addicted to prescription drugs and the crack-addicted homeless person.
5. The Internet has become a topic of discussion for addiction. Discuss.

Applications and Activities

1. Lead a class discussion on the following quote: “addiction is addiction is addiction.”
2. Research and create a list of local resources in your community and/or school available for addicts.
3. Have each student choose a class partner. Have one student research the Alcoholics Anonymous program or a similar program designed to help struggling addicts in the United States and have the other student research the same type program in another country. Prepare a report detailing their methods, how many addicts attempt their program, how many succeed, etc. Compare and contrast the programs and share the results with the class.

RELATED RESOURCES



Captioned Media Program

- Drug Danger: In the Brain #3026
- Easy to Start, Hard to Stop #3028
- Sigmund Freud: Analysis of a Mind #8561



World Wide Web

The following Web sites complement the contents of this guide; they were selected by professionals who have experience in teaching deaf and hard of hearing students. Every effort was made to select accurate, educationally relevant, and “kid safe” sites. However, teachers should preview them before use. The U.S. Department of Education, the National Association of the Deaf, and the Captioned Media Program do not endorse the sites and are not responsible for their content.

- **ADDICTION SEARCH**

<http://www.addictionsearch.com/addictionsearch/>

Contains the latest information on addiction on the Internet. Provides information on substance and behavioral addictions.

- **WEB OF ADDICTIONS**

<http://www.well.com/user/woa/>

Provides accurate information on alcohol and other drug addictions. Includes fact sheets, net resources and contact information for a variety of groups.