

UPPER SECONDARY

AGE: 14–18

INTRODUCTION

DELIVERY



STOP AND THINK



STAY TOGETHER



FLOAT



CALL 999/112

RISKY BUSINESS

LEARNING OUTCOME: **1** To understand why we take risks

Time: 30 mins | Format: Classroom activity | Maximum participation: 35



INTRODUCTION

This spoken language activity challenges students to debate the subject of risk taking. It looks at the motivations for risky behaviour and whether it is important in forming and strengthening friendship groups and identity.

DELIVERY

- Show slides 2 and 3 to your group and ask students why it is they think we take risks. Follow this by asking what risks they have taken recently and their motivations for taking them.
- Slide 3 runs through a few reasons people might take risks. Add any additional student suggestions to the interactive whiteboard.
- Explain that risk taking is a normal and vital part of human behaviour but that it can have catastrophic effects on other people if someone they love takes a risk that causes them harm. Discuss the possibility that sometimes risks are not calculated well and that lack of previous experience, confidence etc can impair a person's ability to calculate a safe outcome.
- Now write the following statement on the IWB or show slide 5.
'Taking risks is an important part of building and strengthening friendships'
- On their own, encourage students to think about whether they agree with this statement.
- Now ask students on a scale of 1–5 (1 being 'strongly disagree' and 5 being 'strongly agree'), how much they agree with this statement. Take a quick poll of responses.
- In pairs, students should now share their opinion with their partner and explain why they have this view. Ideally, students should be paired with a classmate with an opposing viewpoint.

RESOURCES REQUIRED

- ✓ Risky business slides

LOW TECH OPTION

- ✓ Print-outs of Risky business slides



DELIVERY

- Finally, in groups of three or four, debate whether this statement is true. Try to see both sides of the argument. Think about whether this statement is as true in adulthood as it is when you are young and, if not, what changes as you get older.
- It would be prudent to conclude the debate by explaining that risk perception is not a universal truth, it's personal and develops over time as our brains mature.
- How did the group get on? Did everyone see each other's viewpoints? Has anyone changed their original opinion?

OTHER WATER SAFETY DEBATE TOPIC IDEAS COULD BE:

- It should be against the law to post dangerous selfies on social media
- Swimming should only be allowed at lifeguarded swimming pools
- The victim should be made to pay for emergency help if they deliberately put themselves at risk in or around the water