GORD DOWNIE & CHANIE WENJACK FUND

Lesson Plan

DWF LIVE: MMIWG2S+ WITH NATASHA FISHER

Raising Awareness About MMIWG2S+ and the Power of Youth Voices

SUGGESTED AGES:

Middle/High School, Adult

SUGGESTED SUBJECT AREAS:

Indigenous Issues, Social Justice, Media Literacy, Creative Expression

WATCH ON YOUTUBE

DURATION:

80-105 minutes

Disclaimer: Educators and group leaders are responsible for ensuring lessons and materials presented in their classrooms or groups are appropriate for their unique students.

OBJECTIVES:

By the end of the lesson, students will:

- Understand the significance of the Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit People (MMIWG2S+) crisis
- Recognize the role of art, storytelling, and social media in activism and healing
- Reflect on how they can engage as allies and amplify Indigenous voices
- Practice critical thinking and creative expression in response to social justice issues

MATERIALS:

- **DWF LIVE link**
- Guiding Questions
- Notebook or digital device for notes
- Access to a video/audio with speaker
- Art supplies (if doing the creative activity)

INTRODUCTION (10 MIN)

Prompt: "When you think of activism or standing up for a cause, what comes to mind? Have you ever seen someone use art or social media to speak out about an issue?"

- Invite 2–3 students to share their thoughts.
- Set the stage for today's topic by briefly introducing the MMIWG2S+ crisis. The Missing and Murdered Indigenous Women, Girls, and 2-Spirit People crisis refers to the disproportionately high rates of violence, disappearance, and death among Indigenous women, girls, and gender-diverse people in North America. Many cases go unsolved or under-investigated. It's a human rights issue rooted in colonization, systemic racism, and gender-based violence. Young people play a key role in learning about this issue, honouring those lost, and helping bring change.

GUIDING QUESTIONS & NOTES (25 MIN)

Display the Guiding Questions below and explain that students will watch or listen to Natasha Fisher talk about *Raising Awareness About MMIWG2S+ and the Power of Youth Voices* and follow along with the interviewer, taking notes under each question

Guiding Questions:

1. What is the MMIWG2S+ crisis, and why is it important for youth to learn about it?
2. How do creative expressions like art, music, and storytelling help people heal and share messages across generations?
3. What role does social media play in raising awareness and supporting Indigenous voices?
4. How can young people be strong allies and take action in their communities?

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DWF LIVE VIEWING (30 MINUTES)

1. Watch **DWF LIVE: MMIWG2S+ with Natasha Fisher**
2. Ask students to take notes on topics or reflections

SMALL GROUP DISCUSSION (10 MIN)

In groups of 3 or 4, ask students to share their notes and reflect on:

1. What stood out to you?
2. Did anything surprise or move you?
3. How do you see your role in addressing issues like this?

CREATIVE REFLECTION ACTIVITY (10–15 MIN)

1. **Option A: Art & Expression**
   - Ask students to create a mini-poster, poem, or short piece of art that reflects what they learned or how they feel about the MMIWG2S+ crisis.
2. **Option B: Digital Advocacy Challenge**
   - Ask students to write a short social media caption or story idea they could use to raise awareness, inspired by Indigenous creators on Instagram or TikTok.

WRAP-UP & EXIT TICKET (5 MIN)

Ask students to complete this exit prompt on a sticky note or form:
“One thing I learned today is _____. One thing I can do to be an ally is _____.”

DO SOMETHING! (10 MIN)

Share your reconciliACTIONs with us by **completing this form**. Whether it’s the sticky notes you created with this lesson plan, another project, or meaningful conversations, your efforts matter. These actions honour Gord's call to "Do Something" to bring Indigenous and non-Indigenous peoples together in learning and understanding.

ASSESSMENT:

Assessment can be based on students' participation in discussions, engagement with the material, and the quality of their reflections during the activity.

EXTENSIONS:

Find more resources to support MMIWG2S+ on the DWF **Educational Resources page**