

Shabbat Heteronormativity Peulat Shabbat

Nevonim 2013

7/13/13

Goal: Discuss gender stereotypes, push boundaries a little bit. Make campers think about the gender normativity in our lives, in our play, and in our camp.

## Part I: Opening eyes

- 1a (approx 7-10 mins)
  - Split into 6 groups
  - Read the group a story and have them discuss Noah/ Naomi
  - All groups will have the same story, but half the groups will hear the story using male pronouns and the other half will hear the story using female pronouns. **THEY THINK THEY ARE ALL HEARING DIFFERENT STORIES**
  - Story A:
    - Noah is on your yom sport team. At your second team meeting, everyone started arguing, raising their voices and generally getting very frustrated with each other. Noah stood up, scanned the room, and told everyone to be quiet. He organized people into vaadot, assigning everyone on the team a job to get done. He went around to each vaad and made sure that they were on task and working the whole time. He went up to counselors and petitioned for more time to work on Yom Sport. On Yom Sport itself, you were not surprised when Noah made almost all the announcements in front of the team. After your team wins (YAY!), a counselor from another edah comes up to Noah and congratulates him on his hard work.
  - Story B:
    - Naomi is on your yom sport team. At your second team meeting, everyone started arguing, raising their voices and generally getting very frustrated with each other. Naomi stood up, scanned the room, and told everyone to be quiet. She organized people into vaadot, assigning everyone on the team a job to get done. She went around to each vaad and made sure that they were on task and working the whole time. She went up to counselors and petitioned for more time to work on Yom Sport. On Yom Sport itself, you were not surprised when Naomi made almost all the announcements in front of the team. After your team won (YAY!), a counselor from another edah came up to Naomi and congratulated her on her hard work.
  - Discuss
    - How would you describe Noah/ Naomi? Describe how they would look, as well as how they act. What do they wear, what does their hair look like, etc.

- Would you want to be on a color war team with Noah/Naomi? Why/ why not?
  - Do you think Noah/ Naomi is a good teammate? A good leader? Why/ why not? Whats the difference between being a good teammate and a good leader?
- 1b (approx 5-7 mins)
  - Regroup into 3 groups: each group pairs with another group that heard the story with the opposite pronouns
  - Compare Noah and Naomi
    - How did you describe them?
    - Did you want to work with them?
    - What did you think of them as a leader?
- 1c (approx 7-10 mins)
  - THE BIG REVEAL: they all heard the same story! Those characters were the same, the ONLY difference was the names.
  - \*\*\*\*\*IF THE DESCRIPTIONS SHOW NO GENDER DIVIDE\*\*\*\*\*  
explain that in the past there have been focus groups where similar stories have been shared about a driven boss in the business world. Both men and women tend to want to work for the male bosses, describing them as focused and strong leaders, but tend not to want to work for the female bosses, describing them as uptight and mean. (aka the Hillary Clinton effect).
  - Discuss
    - Are you surprised? Did you see this coming?
    - Why do you think that we used X adjectives to describe Noah? Why do you think that we used X adjectives to describe Naomi?
    - Why did we want (or not want) to work with Noah/ Naomi?
    - Was there a difference in how we rated their leadership/ teammate abilities? (Hannah/ Sarah's prediction: for men, being a good teammate and being a good leader would be the same, but for women it couldn't be).

Part II: Apply this to our real life!

- 1a – Grease (approx 5-8 mins):SPOILER ALERT you will not get to everything in this section. Pick and choose what you want to do.
  - The point: the characters are split into groups and a lot of the imagery is very gender normative and full of harmful stereotypes. We should recognize that and think about what better characteristics of the groups could be.
  - Discussion opportunities
    - Summer lovin'
      - Read the lyrics and discuss:
      - How do Sandy's lines differ from Danny's lines? How are they the same? What is more striking?
      - Why are they so different? What do we think about that? What is your reaction?

- How could they be different? Could they be more equal? Should they be more equal?
- Character identities
  - What are the characteristics of Danny? Sandy? Rizzo?
  - What if their gender identities were switched? How would you characterize a boy who acted like Sandy? A girl who acted like Danny? A boy who acted like Rizzo?
  - Is there a difference? Why? What do you think about that?
- There are worse things I could do
  - Read the lyrics and discuss
    - How would you describe this person?
    - What are the sort of things she say are worse? (Many typical "girl" things)
    - How does this fit into the play- Rizzo sort of gets shat on for acting in pretty much the same way that most of the T-birds glorify. What do you think about that?
- Pink Ladies/ Female Stereotypes
  - What are the characteristics of the pink ladies? How are they similar/ different from general female stereotypes? How COULD they be improved upon?
- T-birds/ Male Stereotypes
  - What are the characteristics of the T-birds? How are they similar/ different from general male stereotypes? How COULD they be improved upon?
- 1b- Camp (only if you run super short and have to fill extra time)
  - The point: Camp is super gender normative, let's recognize and discuss.
  - Discussion format: Brainstorm instances of gender normativity then discuss
    - What are things we do at camp that potentially promote gender normativity? (banim/ banot programs, oh my lord, miriam dance, banim/ banot dances, etc.)
    - How do we feel about those things? Do they help or hurt camp culture? What do they add? What would camp be like without them?

