

OHIO

English/Language Arts

Drawing on research that links the development of **personal narratives** to improvements in overall school performance and in personal identity development, the curriculum engages students in an **authentic writer's process** including:

- Drafting
- Reviewing
- Reflection
- Editing
- Research
- Re-writing their own original stories, plays or scripts

Students also learn to apply **story-writing techniques** to plot, theme, character development, and dialogue.

Acquisition of Vocabulary Standard: "applying their knowledge of words."

Writing Process Standard: "revision strategies" and "editing skills."

Research Standard: "make use of information from a variety of media," "use an appropriate form to communicate their feelings."

Communication: Oral and Visual Standard: "convey information and persuade or entertain audiences."

Health Education

In the process of discussing, researching, writing and analyzing the topic of masculinity students will develop such Health Education **literacy and skills** as:

- Gender analysis
- Relationship management
- Communication
- Decision making
- Advocacy

As students write for the "What's the REAL DEAL?" contest, they apply their increasing functional knowledge of **sexual health**, **sexual risk** and **violence prevention to real life situations**. The learning activities in the unit include:

- Role plays
- Research
- Creative writing
- Reflection portfolios
- Community action
- Discussion

Theater Arts

Students create, research, develop and perform original plays or scripts about masculinity. They can perform the plays or scripts they create for the school and for the wider community, as they become advocates on issues around masculinity. Field reporting from around the world suggests that projects that engage adolescents in writing and performing thematically relevant scripts can lead to increases in self-esteem, to greater civic engagement among youth and to increases in knowledge about sexual health issues.¹

- Creative expression and communication
- Valuing the arts/aesthetic reflection
- Connections, relationships and applications

Social Studies/ Civic Engagement

Students discuss, research (by applying the critical evaluation of sources) and analyze “change and continuity”; and “cause and consequence”; in society over time through the lens of masculinity. All the learning activities in the lessons on masculinity have extension activities specifically for Social Studies, in order to bring the learning on masculinity into the context of a school’s regular Social Studies content.

History: “Students use materials drawn from the diversity of human experience to analyze and interpret significant events, patterns and themes in the history of Ohio, the United States and the world.”

Citizenship Rights and Responsibilities: “Students use knowledge of the rights and responsibilities of citizenship in order to examine and evaluate civic ideals and to participate in community life and the US democratic system.”

Social Studies Skills and Methods: “Students collect, organize, evaluate and synthesize information from multiple sources to draw logical conclusions. Students communicate this information...and apply what they have learned to societal issues in...real-world settings.”

¹ For example, one such project reported outcomes that were at least partially attributed to the intervention, including: changing attitudes among adults toward adolescents’ need for education; increased school attendance; changed gender norms (e.g., girls and boys no longer sitting separately at meetings, greater latitude for girls to speak with boys); greater utilization of health services, increased community goodwill toward project; increased motivation among peer counselors; reduced consumption of pornography (a project aim); drop in number of pregnancies and abortions among teenagers and unmarried girls. See United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA). 2006. “Art Is In Our Blood: Educational Street Theater in Sri Lanka.” In: Case Studies from RHIYA: Good Practices for Creating an Enabling Environment EU/UNFPA Reproductive Health Initiative for Youth in Asia (RHIYA).