

Emmaus schools' resources: Lesson plans

Lesson 2: How do people become homeless? Once homeless, why do they find it difficult to get out of the situation?

Learning objectives: As a result of their discussions, the students should be able to:

- suggest some of the causes of homelessness.
- identify the most frequently mentioned factors which lead to homelessness.
- describe some of the reasons which make it difficult for people who have become homeless to get themselves out of that situation.

National Curriculum Citizenship Links:

4a debate in groups and whole class discussions, topical and controversial issues.....

Resources needed:

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| 2a | Does every picture tell a story? | 1 A4 sheet per group |
| 2b | How I became homeless... | 1 A4 sheet per group |
| 2c | What are the factors that might cause someone to become homeless? | as OHP/Ppt slide/web resource |
| 2d | Why don't you... | as OHP/Ppt slide/web resource |

Starter (5 - 10 minutes):

In groups, using the resource sheet 2a 'Does every picture tell a story?' Students come up with ideas of how they imagine these people may have become homeless. You can choose how you want students to record their ideas but having them written down will help with the next activity.

Context of photos: They are all of people who are, or who have been, living in an Emmaus Community. They have all experienced periods of homelessness in their lives.

Main activity (15 - 20 minutes):

Using Resource 2b 'How I became homeless...' students

- read through and discuss the quotes from people who have been homeless
- compare these to the reasons they came up with in the starter activity
- note any matches
- list any of the quoted reasons which they did not anticipate
- list any reasons they thought of themselves which did not appear in the quotes

Depending on your class, you could ask them to make brief notes here.

Alternatively, they can cut the sheets to separate the quotes (plan to print on one side only!) and work with them that way, if time allows.

Next, the students identify common themes that run through the quotes. If they have cut the sheet into separate quotes, it's easy to physically group them together into, for example, 'relationship problems', 'alcohol dependence' etc.

Draw their findings together where everyone can see.

Plenary: (10 - 15 mins)

Display OHP/Powerpoint slide Resource 2c 'What are the factors that might cause someone to become homeless?'

Talk this through with the students. What, if anything, surprises them?

and final discussion: Why is it difficult for homeless people to get themselves out of the situation?

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Depending on your students, you can open this up as a general discussion or you might want to use OHP/Powerpoint Resource 2d 'Why don't you.....' to act as a stimulus.

For each suggestion, ask them why they think it might be difficult for a homeless person to act on that suggestion.

e.g. "Get a job": Would a homeless person feel confident to go out and find a job? How would they go about finding a job to apply for? If someone doesn't have a fixed address, does that make it more difficult? How would they prepare for and cope with an interview? Anybody who employs them will want to know about previous employment or educational history. Who could they ask for a reference?

Useful web addresses: www.crisis.org.uk, www.shelter.org.uk