

# Role Cards

## Board President

You have not decided how you feel about your organization providing contraceptive education to youth in your community. You do know that contraceptive education has never been provided before at your organization. The family life educator at your organization, students, and parents have requested that the organization start providing it. You also know that some parents and students are against adding contraceptive information to the current family life program. Although you do not want to promote youth having sex, you also do not want to deprive them of important information. You are open to new ideas and value what research has shown about why teens have sex.

## Board Member #1

You are completely opposed to any sex education in public organizations. You feel that parents need to educate their youth about sex, not some stranger with “who knows what” kind of values.

## Board Member #2

You want to do the responsible thing to help prevent teen pregnancy. You don't have any proof, but your gut feeling is that providing contraceptive education will give a message to teens that it is okay to have sex. You are open-minded and very interested in what the other participants have to share.

## Board Member #3

You are new to the board. You know teen pregnancy is a problem in this community, but you have no idea how to address it. You do feel that dancing contributes to teen sex because it allows them to get close and turned on. You believe that discontinuing the organization's dances could go far in reducing the teen pregnancy rates.

## **Board Member #4**

You have always been in favor of providing comprehensive family life education, and you agree with the idea of adding contraceptive education to the current FLE program.

## **Youth #1**

You believe too many young people are having sex, and you don't want your organization providing contraceptive education because it promotes youth having sex. You are open to new ideas. You love to read and tend to believe things you see in print.

## **Youth #2**

You believe information is power, and youth need all the information about sex that they can get. You challenge authority often and are sometimes disrespectful to people with different opinions.

## **Youth #3**

As a pro-life advocate, you do not feel that it is right for your organization to provide information about abortion methods. You see this as promoting abortion. You do, however, believe that providing contraceptive information is good as long as there is no information about abortion.

## **Parent #1**

You don't know why so many people are uptight about sex. You believe it is okay for teens to have sex as long as they do it responsibly. You believe the organization should provide teens with whatever they need to know in order to have sex responsibly.

## **Parent #2**

You believe that teens should not have sex, but you know that some do. You believe that they need access to contraceptive information so that if they choose to have sex, they can at least prevent pregnancy. Since there is no other organization in town where teens feel comfortable accessing information about sexual health, it is all the more important that your organization bring the information to the youth.

## **Parent #3**

Your son and his girlfriend became teen parents last year. You don't know what you believe about providing contraceptive information, but you do think that the community is not doing enough to address the problem of teen pregnancy. You want some hard facts about what helps teens prevent unintended pregnancy.

## **Family Life Educator**

You know that you are not supposed to present information about contraceptives during your sessions — except for condoms because they are important in the prevention of HIV/AIDS. But, in your sessions, youth often ask about different birth control methods. You feel that if the youth want the information, you should give it to them.

## **Counselor**

You have been with the organization for a very long time and have enjoyed counseling the youth. You are concerned about the number of youth who are having sex and are not using any protection. You end up providing many youth with contraceptive information. You would prefer that the youth talk to their parents about contraception, but you feel obligated to give them the information in your one-on-one sessions. You have not been trained to provide contraceptive education, and you think the family life educator is much better qualified to provide this type of information.

## **Organization Director/Principal**

You have been the director/principal of the organization for 15 years. You are a pillar in the community, and parents value your opinions. You strongly believe that parents should educate their own children about the “facts of life.” You have enough responsibilities in running a quality organization, and you do not want to take on the added responsibility of trying to reduce teen pregnancy too. Teen pregnancy prevention is up to parents to address as they see fit. The organization does teach youth about condoms so that they can prevent getting HIV because that is a life and death issue.

## **Staff of Local Health Department**

You are a religious person who believes teens should not be having sex. Since you have teenagers yourself, you have been very interested in researching how family life education affects teens. You have learned from several respected sources that providing information about contraceptives does not increase a youth’s chances of having sex. You also know that providing information on contraception does increase contraceptive use among sexually active teens. In light of the research, you agree that the organization should provide contraception education.

## **Minister**

You are a well loved and respected member of the community. You believe that teaching youth about contraceptives encourages them to have sex. You think that if youth want information about contraceptives, they can speak with their parents or other trusted adults, talk to their doctors, or download information from the internet.