



EDUCATIONAL INVOLVEMENT STRATEGIES FOR DEVELOPING SAFETY CULTURE IN HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS: ROLE-PLAYING GAMES AND SIMULATIONS

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ABSTRACT

This article explores effective educational strategies, focusing on the use of role-playing games and simulations, to foster a safety culture among high school students. Integrating these interactive learning methods into the curriculum encourages active participation, improves decision-making skills, and strengthens students' ability to respond to emergencies. The study highlights how role-playing and simulations enhance students' understanding of safety concepts, helping them internalize behaviors necessary for maintaining personal and community safety.

KEYWORDS: Safety culture, high school students, role-playing games, simulations, interactive learning, educational strategies.

INTRODUCTION

Creating a strong safety culture in schools requires effective engagement strategies that help students understand and apply safety principles in real-life scenarios. Role-playing games and simulations are valuable tools for achieving this goal, as they provide experiential learning opportunities where students actively participate, collaborate, and learn by doing. These methods allow learners to practice decision-making and problem-solving in a safe environment, preparing them to handle real-world safety challenges.

Safety culture refers to shared beliefs, values, and attitudes that promote safe behavior. Establishing this culture in schools ensures that students not only comply with safety rules but also develop intrinsic motivation to maintain safe practices. High school students, who are at a critical developmental stage, benefit greatly from engaging methods that promote safety awareness and responsibility.

Role-playing games create scenarios where students assume various roles, encouraging empathy, teamwork, and critical thinking. These activities simulate real-world situations, such as natural disasters or first-aid scenarios, helping students understand the consequences of their actions in a controlled setting. Role-playing also fosters communication skills, as participants discuss strategies and reflect on their decisions.

Simulations provide realistic environments where students can practice safety protocols without real-life risks. Examples include virtual simulations of fire drills or hazardous material handling. These activities build familiarity with procedures and enhance students' ability to remain calm under pressure. Simulations also provide immediate feedback, helping students correct mistakes and reinforce proper behaviors.

Interactive learning, through role-playing and simulations, promotes student engagement by shifting the focus from passive listening to active participation. It enhances students' motivation to learn and provides hands-on experience that reinforces theoretical knowledge. This approach also encourages reflection and discussion, which solidifies students' understanding of safety practices.

For maximum impact, role-playing games and simulations should be embedded into regular school activities. Teachers can collaborate with safety professionals to design relevant scenarios that align with the school's safety policies. Additionally, digital tools and virtual platforms can be employed to create immersive simulation experiences.

Incorporating role-playing games and simulations into high school education plays a crucial role in developing a lasting safety culture. These strategies empower students to act responsibly, make informed decisions, and respond effectively to emergencies. By fostering a proactive attitude towards safety, educators can equip students with the skills needed to protect themselves and others in real-life situations.

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