Dating Game

This workshop is like the classic television game show. Three people sit on stage and vie for a date with a person who is hidden from their view. The person selected, and their date share a prize dinner date at your conference banquet. "The Dating Game" is sure to provide plenty of flirtatious moments.

Materials

Music - ***Definitive Hits*** *by Herb Alpert*

Posters with "1" "2" "3"

A small divider or screen

4 chairs

Make big daisy flowers to use to decorate

Put the questions on flip chart paper.

Set-Up:

The game rules are simple. Pick a contestant from the audience. Then ask for people who are interested in trying to win a date with this person to raise their hand. The contestant then picks 3 people to play the dating game. Those 3 people come up on stage and sit in the seats numbered #1, #2 and #3. Make sure the contestant does not see what seats the 3 people sit down on.

The game show host then asks the contestant to ask 5 different questions, but one at a time. We use a microphone. The contestant is given help if they need it. We have provided you with a list questions to use but you can make up other ones.

The couples who win the Dating Game have a date at the evening banquet of our conference. We get 4 small tables set up for two people each at the evening banquets for the couples who win a date at our workshop. We will decorate the tables with flowers and candles. The dating game is an enormous hit at our self-advocacy conferences.

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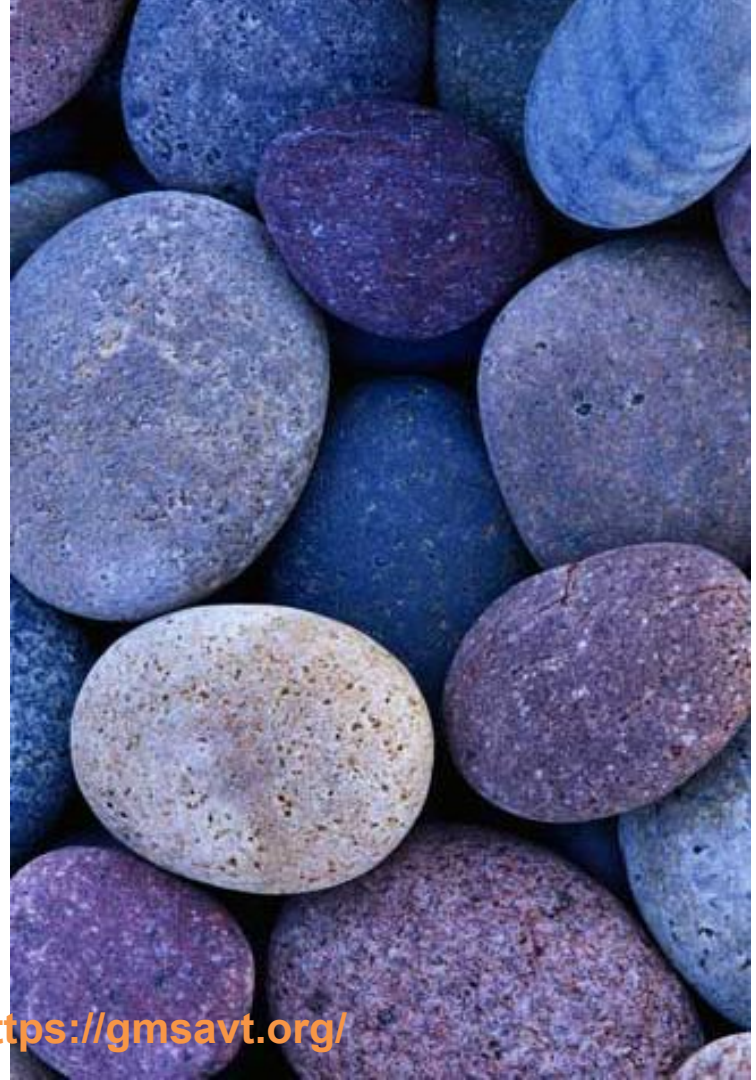
Sample Questions

1. If you had a $100, what kind of gift would you give me?
2. Which is more important: having a great sense of humor, being active and sporty, or being passionate about life?
3. What makes you laugh?
4. Which song best describes our first date?
   a. It's Getting Hot in here by Nelly
   b. You are so beautiful by Joe Cocker
   c. Just the way you are by Bruno Mars
   d. Wild thing by the Troggs
5. If you were to make me dinner, what would you serve?

Rocks Activity

Look Through Our Eyes

Listening to our stories.



Green Mountain Self-Advocates has 23 local groups throughout Vermont with over 600 members who have an intellectual and developmental disability. We like to begin our trainings by bringing the voices of our members into the room. We have been collecting stories and comments from our members. These are examples of the words and actions that people with disabilities face every day. We find that the words and actions of others impact our lives more than our disabilities.

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We are going to pass around a backpack loaded with rocks.

When you get the backpack take out a rock

Each rock has a paper attached with comment on it.

Take turns Reading Your rock

Everyone else is silent.

We will not discuss what we hear. Just listen as we read all the comments.

Sample Quotes

I have my own way of doing things. So why do people tell me to do things their way?

I stutter…and people just answer for me. I just need time to answer.

I was told I could not have pets

I want to see my sweetie on Friday night, but no one will take me. Why do I only get to spend time with them during the week at public places like bingo?

My disability causes my hands to be twisted. But I still want to write things down on paper or handle my own money. I just need extra time to do this, but everyone grabs things from my hands does it for me.

Sample Quotes

I was right in the room when everyone was making decisions about my life.

I've made mistakes in the past, it is true. And I have learned some things from my mistakes. But I never get another chance.

People care about me and want to protect me. And I appreciate that, but I don't want to be protected from living my life.

They told me I could never go to college. Why not? I have dreams too.

They took my kids away because they said I had a disability and I wasn't able to raise them.

Sample Quotes

What if someone said you could not have sex or even hold hands with the person you love?

When someone asks me a question, and while I am thinking of my answer, somebody decides for me

When I show my emotions, tell people how I feel I get more meds

I made an embarrassing mistake and everybody where I work and live, including my family knows it

What if you wanted to call your family and were told it had to wait until later?

What would you do if people said you are not allowed to go to a bar?

After it is all done say…

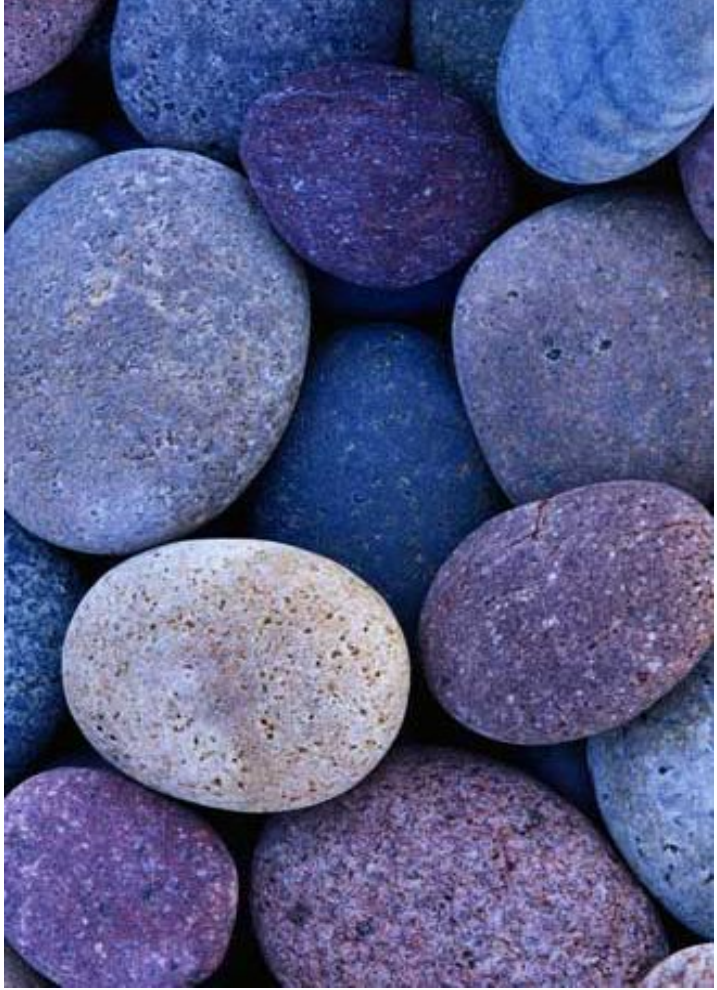
Sometimes people say that having a disability is a burden.

But we encourage people to be proud of who they are and that includes having a disability.

The real burden is the words and actions of others.

That is what weighs us down.

Part of our work as leaders in the disability movement is to lift these words and change these actions.

Then Say…

Any thoughts about what you heard?