

Shared Responsibility Brainstorm

The purpose of this activity is for young people to understand the concept of shared responsibility around contraception and how it can be practiced now and in the future. This is meant to build empathy for egg-producing partners and the burden of contraception that falls on them and to build a sense of shared responsibility among sperm-producing partners.

TOOLS AVAILABLE TO EDUCATORS

To explain the concept of shared responsibility, check out these tools on our website:

- Shared responsibility primer
- Shared responsibility video
- Shared responsibility infographic

To discuss the history of birth control and why the burden of contraception falls on egg-producing partners, check out these tools on our website:

- History of contraception primer
 - History of contraception timeline
 - History of contraception infographic
 - History of contraception articles
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HOW THE ACTIVITY WORKS

After having discussed the concept of **shared responsibility** around contraception, the facilitator will lead the participants into this brainstorm activity. Participants will have time (around 5 minutes) to think of all the ways that shared responsibility can be practiced as a couple when it comes to contraception. This can be done in many ways, for example:

- Participants (individually or in teams) write their ideas on sticky notes (one sticky note per idea), then place all the sticky notes on a large sheet of paper, whiteboard, wall, canvas, or other surface.
- For virtual learning, the facilitator can utilize a Jamboard or other virtual whiteboard for students to place sticky notes and/or text boxes with ideas.

If participants are having difficulty in brainstorming, the facilitator can give some example ideas, such as “splitting the cost of birth control,” “accompanying your partner to appointments,” or “using condoms.” At the end of the 5 minutes, the facilitator will give participants time to read what the other participants or teams have written. The facilitator will then guide the participants in categorizing the sticky notes by similar ideas or themes. The facilitator will lead the group in a short discussion.

Discussion Questions:

- How easy or difficult was it to brainstorm ways we can share responsibility around contraception? Why was it easy/difficult?
- Why is shared responsibility important?
- How are empathy and shared responsibility connected?