



Discussion suggestions for 16+:

Discussion One- The Disposal of Chewing Gum:

a) How do you dispose of your chewing gum? Be truthful!

- o Encourage students to be truthful, on previous occasions we have spoken to people who have put their chewing gum behind their ear/on their bed post and then re-used it.

b) What would you class as irresponsible disposal of waste gum?

- o Floor
- o Bin
- o Chairs
- o Is putting it in a tissue then on the floor acceptable etc...

c) What are the risks that surround irresponsible chewing gum waste?

- o Landfills-what is wrong with landfills?
- o Environment
- o Cost- ask students how much they think it costs to remove chewing gum from our streets? The British Government spend £150 million a year cleaning chewing gum off our streets.
- o Sight
- o Hygiene

d) What solutions can you come up with for stopping irresponsible gum waste?

e) Did you know that you can actually recycle chewing gum already?

- o Discuss the Gumdrops concept
- o What do students think of the concept?
- o Strengths & Weakness
- o Is it something they would use?

f) Discuss the idea of Gum-tec, what chewing gum can be recycled into:

- o How do people feel about something they are no longer using being made into something else?
- o What would you most like your gum to become?
Examples- Frisbees, new Gumdrops, wellies, water bottles etc..

Discussion Two-The Popularity of Chewing Gum:

a) Why do we chew chewing gum/why is it so popular worldwide?

-What makes it so popular?

-Pointers:

- Flavour?
- Health benefits?
- Distraction?
- Enjoyment?

b) What are the benefits of chewing gum?

-Pointers:

- Reduces stress
- Health
- Focus
- Distraction
- Weight loss
- Improves memory
- Improves digestion

c) What would you say is the most popular way to dispose of chewing gum?

-Pointers:

- Put it in the bin
- Put it on the floor
- Put it under a chair
- Recycle it

d) What would you class as irresponsible disposal of chewing gum?

- Is wrapping it in a tissue but putting it on the floor okay?
- What are the problems of simply putting it in a bin?
- What are the problems involved with putting it on the floor?

e) Do you think recycling would be a popular way of disposing chewing gum?

- Encourage students to discuss what they feel about the concept of recycling chewing gum?
- What are the benefits of it etc..

f) Did you know you can already recycle chewing gum?

- Discuss Gumdrop, ask what they think of the concept.
- Strengths & weaknesses etc..
- Would they use them

g) What would you most like your gum to become?

- Discuss Gum-tec and the possibilities surrounding recycling chewing gum
- Examples of what gum can be made into-rulers, new Gumdrops, wellies, dog bowls, plastic bottles etc...

Discussion Three - The Image of Chewing Gum and its Disposal:

a) What are the images surrounding chewing gum?

- o Who is most likely to chew gum?
- o What is generally thought of people that chew gum?

b) What are the images surrounding gum disposal?

- o What do you think when you see chewing gum on the pavement/chair/table..
- o What do you think when you see someone dispose of their chewing gum irresponsibly?

c) What are the images surrounding recycling?

- o How do you perceive recycling, negatively / positively?

d) Did you know that you can already recycle your chewing gum?

- o Discuss Gumdrop, what are people's views on the concept?
- o Do people think it creates a good image?
- o Is it something they would be interested in?

e) What image does recycling chewing gum create?

f) What do you think about Gum-tec?

- o Discuss Gum-tec, what chewing gum can be made into examples= dog bowls, water bottles, wellies etc..
- o What would you most like your waste gum to become?
- o How do you feel about something you no longer need being put to a good use and creating something new?