

# Notes for secondary school teachers

Every year as part of Law Week, the NSW Anti-Discrimination Board (ADB) runs a competition for young people across NSW to help familiarise them with the law and the role of the ADB. This year we are running a *Writing and Creative Arts Competition*. The theme of the competition is "Diversity makes the difference", and we are encouraging students to think about the positives of living in a world full of variety.

Attached you will find two worksheets for use with your students which can be used to prompt discussion about discrimination and get students thinking about the positive aspects of diversity.

## Notes for worksheet S1

Worksheet S1 is a crossword to familiarise students with the ADB and NSW anti-discrimination law. They could be given this activity to do away from the class, perhaps sourcing information from the internet. The ADB website is at <http://www.lawlink.nsw.gov.au/adb>.

The solution to the crossword is on the other side of this page.

## Notes for worksheet S2

Before using the worksheet ask students to participate in some or all of the following activities.

### Activity 1

Divide the students into small groups (3 or 4) and have them brainstorm the terms stereotype, prejudice and discrimination. Come up with some agreed working definitions to use when looking at the rest of the activities. See below for some useful definitions to assist with discussions.

*Stereotype* – means forming a preconceived and oversimplified idea of characteristics typical of an individual or group. Stereotypes ignore the fact that people are individuals and not the same. They are mostly negative.


*Prejudice* – means to prejudge. A prejudice is an unfavourable opinion or attitude about a person or group of people.

*Discrimination* – means treating someone unfairly and or differently because they happen to belong to or are perceived to belong to a particular group of people.

### Activity 2

Ask the students to identify some of the common stereotypes of the groups listed on worksheet S2. After they have come up with the stereotypes, ask them to consider if what they have written is true or false of the particular group using the third column on the right of the worksheet to record their verdicts. (The aim of this exercise is to show that stereotypes are usually unfair or unfounded.)

### Activity 3

Using the second side of worksheet S2, ask the students to consider in small groups the positive contributions each of these groups of people can make to society. In doing this, try to encourage students to come up with contributions based in reality rather than more stereotypes. For example, older people may have more time to help out with grandchildren if they are retired, or be able to tell people about historical events or their family history. Students may find this challenging but it is about getting them to think about the positives of living in a world of variety. 

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## Activity 4 - competition entry

Ask each group to come up with 10 positives about living in a world of variety and then give each young person time to put some of these ideas into a poem, song, drawing, poster, cartoon or PowerPoint presentation to enter into the competition. (See the competition details and entry form for more information.)

## Crossword solution

