

Dissecting *Seventeen* Workshop

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Your students read magazines, a lot more than they read books, and it's a good idea to bring them into your classroom for dissection.

Materials

Scissors or an exacto knife

Glue

Pens

Magazines

Paper

Bristol Board

Have your students bring their favourite magazines into class. Have a collection of extras for students who don't have access to magazines of their own, and/or have students work in pairs or small (no more than 3 students) groups.

Have students go through the magazine and count representations of:

Heterosexual romantic love

Marriage

Single Life

White people

Non-white people

Buying things

Politics

LGBTQ people

Catty Women

...Or whatever else you want them to look for

Have them present their findings to the class. Discuss as a class what message the magazine in question is giving its readers about what it means to be a woman or man, or young person, etc (whatever is the target audience for the magazine in question).

Write these messages on the board.

After each group is finished presenting, ask them what their findings tell us about our society. Are people getting the same kinds of messages? Who benefits when we take magazine's advice?

Using messages on the board, have students cut up the magazines to illustrate the class discussion.

Have them cut out examples of pictures of things to buy (for example) and how many times those images were in the issue.

Invite other classes to attend your awareness campaign.