

## Activity #2: Peer Pressure and Influence

*The goal of this activity is for students to demonstrate (through role play) an understanding of how choices and behaviours can affect themselves and others in respect to peer pressure.*

### **Materials Needed:**

Chairs; Scenario sheets (File Attached)

### **Instructional Procedures:**

*Note: This activity can be done as a class, in small groups, or in partners.*

As an opening point for discussion, ask students:

What do you think of when you hear the term “peer pressure”?

How much do you think peer pressure affects people’s behavior?

Do you think it’s ever possible for peer pressure to have a positive impact? Each round of the activity requires two students to participate: Student A will stand and Student B will sit in a chair.

Give students a scenario from the examples provided on the next page.

Student A must try to persuade Student B to give up the chair within the context of the scenario.

Seated students must try to stay in their chairs as long as possible, but can only do so for as long as they can answer Student A’s attempts at persuasion with a reasonable excuse.

The same excuse cannot be used more than once, and the teacher may at any point evict a student from the seat if the student fails to adequately defend their right to it.

Continue the activity for several rounds, using different scenarios and rotating the students involved.

You may try adding variables, such as having more than one student at a time trying to convince Student B to give up the chair.

**As a consolidation discussion, ask students:**

How did it feel to have a turn in the chair?

Was it more difficult to defend your right to stay seated in some cases than in others? Why?

What are some of the ways people might influence someone other than directly asking them to do what they want?

What are some ways that you can influence people in a positive manner?

## Peer Pressure and Influence – Scenario Sheet

1. Student A has a book report that needs to be finished today. Student A can't work on the report at home because the home computer has died. Student B is in the computer lab playing games online. Student A must convince Student B to give up the spot at the computer.
2. Student A wants to sit next to their best friend during class, but the seat is already taken by Student B. Student B has poor vision and this seat is the best spot to be able to see the writing on the board. Student A must convince Student B to give up the seat.
3. Student A has back pain that makes it difficult to stand for long periods of time. Student A was looking forward to sitting down on the city bus, but the seats are full. Student B is sitting in the courtesy seating section, but has not seemed to notice Student A. Student B is using the time on the bus to do homework before going to work tonight. Student A must convince Student B to give up the seat.
4. Student A, at a crowded fast food restaurant with three friends, has been given the task of finding a table while the others stand in line. Student B is sitting alone at a table for four, and is clearly in the middle of eating. Student A sees an available table for two. Student A must convince Student B to give up the seat at the table for four.
5. Student A is at an amusement park with a group of friends. One of these friends invited Student B. No one else in the group knows Student B very well, but since they get a discount on tickets if they have a certain number of people, they don't mind Student B tagging along. As they get ready to board a roller coaster, they realize that one person will have to wait for the next train of cars and ride alone. Student B, who is at the front of the line, sits in a car without consulting the rest of the group. Student A, who is at the back of the line, is going to be left behind. Student A must convince Student B to give up the roller coaster seat.
6. It's movie night at home and Student A wants to sit on the recliner. Student A wants to put their feet up and doesn't want to squish onto the couch with other family members. Unfortunately, Student B got to the recliner first. Student A must convince Student B to give up the recliner.