

VIDEO EMPOWERMENT

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- ❖ **Diary Assignment** (Completed by the teenage videomakers during the making of *DESIRE*)
Ask students if they keep diaries. Briefly, describe the art and history of diary making. Invite the class/group to do the exercise below using a home video camera, audio recorder or written journal. Tell them they may keep all or part of it private if they choose.

“Who am I?” Tell students to look in a mirror and describe what they see. Ask them to read aloud and answer the following: Do I like what I see? Why or why not? What do I hope to see in a few years? Does being a girl or a boy make a difference in who I am becoming? Does my skin color or the language my family speaks affect my growing up? Would I be different if I lived in a fancier neighborhood or my family had more money? What pivotal experiences have shaped who I am?

When students have completed their diaries, provide an opportunity for those who feel comfortable, to share excerpts with their peers and discuss what they learned. Consider compiling the students’ work in a scrapbook or documentary for the school community. (See *The New Diary: How to Use a Journal for Self-Guidance and Expanded Creativity* by Tristine Rainer)

- ❖ **Media and Me?**
Re-screen and discuss Peggy’s video, *Secrets* in Year Four of the documentary (Approx. 5:30 mins into the film; Sequence length 4:30 mins). Have students explore and collect messages on sexuality, body image, and sexual orientation in popular media, such as print advertisements, television, and music. They can also include self-studies or interviews with family or friends.

After the research is complete, have them create a visual and/or audio collage from their collected images and interviews. Then, ask students to write and present a position paper on whether the media has a positive or negative influence on people’s views of their sexuality, bodies, and self-esteem. If so, what should be done about it?

For additional information or assistance, please email us at DesireDocumentary@gmail.com