

# Holiday decisions- Gender identity in interaction

Carmen Santamaría-García

Universidad de Alcalá, Spain

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## Part 1: Practical Guidance and Didactical Approach

### Background and keywords:

Identity and self-concepts have an enormous influence in decision-making processes. Some individuals show a natural tendency for leadership, making important decisions easily, while others shy away from it. Traditionally, making decisions has been in the male domain and women have found difficulties in taking decisions in both public and private spheres. This may lead to negative consequences for women both at work and home. Team work and leadership with equal opportunities for men and women are important values in today's society. For these reasons it is essential to foster the skills needed to be a positive member of a community, regardless of sex.

Keywords: Gender identity, community, team work, decision making, class discussions.

### Similar topics:

See key words

### Materials:

- Computers with internet access
- A sheet of paper and pen
- Magazines and travel brochures to cut out

### Duration:

3 one-hour class sessions

### Number of participants:

- Five or more
- The ideal size for a group would be 20-25 students divided in groups of 5.

### Age:

10 till 11 year old students

### Aims:

To understand the factors involved in making decisions. To learn the skills needed to be a positive member of a community. To be able to hold class discussions.

### (Short) Explanation:

By planning holidays on an island, students have to agree on decisions as a group in order to work as a community. Sharing their individual thinking, they learn about their identities and the importance of each individual in team work.

**Guidance for the game or exercise:**

Students have to plan a holiday on an island of their choice in groups of five. They are encouraged to focus on skills including ranking priorities, selecting a leader and establishing rules. The activity is designed to teach students the skills needed to be a positive member of a community, and to help them understand the importance of every individual in team work and their role in effective decision making.

The group is given the scenario of planning holidays on an island of their choice. They are encouraged to focus on skills including ranking priorities, selecting a leader and establishing rules.

The activity is designed to teach students the skills needed to be a positive member of a community, and to help them understand the importance of effective decision making.

1. In groups of five, choose an island for a week holiday. You can use maps and internet (google maps) to find its location



2. How would you travel to this island? Each member of the team can give their opinion verbally or write it down.
3. Once you have agreed on the itinerary, find the best airport and calculate the price for the journey from your house. (You can use [www.rumbo.com](http://www.rumbo.com) or any site for ticket sales on the net.)
4. What else do you have to find now? Write a list of essential things you have to plan for the holidays in advance.
5. What would you need to take to your destination? Classify the things you need into one of these groups and add other groups if necessary:
  - Clothes
  - Toiletries
  - Leisure
6. Once you have planned your holiday, try to persuade another team to go with you. What reasons would you give to persuade them? Discuss as a group and write a list.
7. Make a brochure with pictures from magazines and travel brochures.

8. At this stage, choosing a leader may facilitate discussions for persuasion. Choose a leader and give reasons why you chose him. What are their qualities that make them good leaders?
9. Help your leader to plan a short presentation on your holiday plan.
10. Group leaders make their presentations and students vote the best of each plan.

**Reflection:**

Making decisions and holding class discussions on them reveal a lot of the individual's identity and helps to foster the skills needed to be a participative member of a community, regardless of sex. As taking decisions has been in the male domain, it will be essential to train girls and students together in team work and leadership with equal opportunities for all.

Questions for the reflection could be:

- What are your experiences with different talks?
- How do you judge your parents/ brothers/ sisters/ friends' styles?
- Have you recently experienced frustration or disappointment from other's behaviour? Could you recall the situation and explain briefly what happened?

**Variations (Continuation):**

The group is given the scenario of being stranded on a desert island. Desert islands are commonly featured in literature and popular culture, as a place where individuals or small groups of people find themselves cut off from civilization. The theme of being stranded on a desert island has inspired novels, films, radio and reality shows among others. It is linked to topics that reveal a lot of the individual's identity such as decisions on the items they would take with them to a deserted island or the reasons why they would voluntarily stay behind on a deserted island to evade the world.

Alternatively, the group can plan a day out that fits in the class schedule.