AIDS FUNDAMENTALS
Idea Exchange Group (IEG)
Goals & Requirements

Discussion Section #: ______
Lead Facilitator: ________________________ E-mail: ________________________
Co-Facilitator: ________________________ E-mail: ________________________
Day and Time: ________________________ Location: ________________________

Goals: The Idea Exchange Groups (IEGs) serve as a forum for exploring ideas and sharing reactions to HIV/AIDS-related topics. The IEG meetings will not serve as a review or overview of the material covered in lecture. Facilitators have no administrative authority, and you will need to see a professor or Bio TA for any questions you may have related to lecture material.

Attendance: Beginning Week 3 and running through Week 10, you are required to attend a weekly IEG (discussion section). Attendance at the IEG is mandatory AND you must attend the section in which you are officially enrolled. No changes will be permitted. Both attendance and thoughtful, active participation in the IEG meetings amounts to 25% of your final grade in the course. If you arrive for your IEG meeting more than 5 minutes late, your facilitator has been instructed not to give you credit for attending the IEG. If, for extraordinary circumstances, you miss one IEG, provisions have been set up for you to make up this experience through a 2-hour commitment, followed by the submission of a typed paper. Your make-up experience and paper must be completed and turned in, and the materials returned, no later than one week after you receive the make-up assignment. All make-ups need to be finished by the final exam. There is a separate hand-out (available upon request) that describes the make-up opportunity.

Participation: Your grade in the weekly IEG meetings is based upon your attendance and active, thoughtful participation. Please remember that the IEGs are designed to help you learn about and explore new ideas. Everyone has a right to their own opinion, and tolerance of others’ views is required. In addition, the content of the IEGs, including personal information disclosed by other students, is considered confidential and should not be discussed outside of the IEG.

Journals: Journals are a vehicle for you to express your views, attitudes, reactions, and feelings about the weekly IEG activities. You will be asked to write on an assigned topic each week, and you will be given the last 10-15 minutes of each IEG to compose your thoughts. Each journal response should be about 1 page in length and must be turned in to your facilitator by the end of the IEG.
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Guidelines for Students

Purpose of the Group

- Identify and explore our own feelings about HIV/AIDS, and related issues
- Learn to openly communicate our values, ideas, and beliefs
- Become exposed to, and learn to accept, people whose opinions differ from our own
- Become more aware of the issues faced by people with AIDS, those at risk for HIV infection, and the general community
- Explore which behaviors are and are not associated with the risk of HIV infection

Student Responsibilities

Confidentiality

- Due to the nature of the group, it is important that all group members keep what is said in the group confidential. Everyone will feel more comfortable and willing to share if they have the sense of trust that is built through confidentiality.
- If at any time a student has a concern about confidentiality, they should speak to the facilitator, the graduate coordinator, or the professor.

Participation

- The group only works if students participate in the activities and discussions. However, no student will be forced to share their views or opinions.
- Students should only reveal as much about themselves and their feelings as they feel comfortable with; this is a completely personal and individual decision.
- Everyone is free to express anything; all we ask is that it be done in a respectful manner.
- Students (and facilitators!) should not assume anything about anyone else in the group; keep an open mind.

If you have any concerns about your IEG, please talk with your facilitators first. They are here to help you. If you are still having trouble, contact the IEG Coordinator, Leona Bessonova: leona.b@uci.edu

WELCOME TO AIDS FUNDAMENTALS!!!