Lesson 2: A Place In The Middle

OBJECTIVES

1. Students will be introduced to the Native Hawaiian approaches to gender, diversity, and inclusion.
2. Students will understand the Hawaiian concept of “mahu” and how it relates to being “in the middle” in other cultures.
3. Students will increase understanding on how beliefs about what it means to be male, female, or “in the middle” are shaped by society and culture.

AGENDA

5 minutes  Do Now: Discussion & Group Agreements
40 Minutes  A Place in the Middle DVD and Discussion
5 minutes  Closure and Homework

MATERIALS

- Link to a place in the middle or DVD and Teachers Guide
- Flipchart or Board
- Worksheet: A Place in the Middle Viewing Guide Worksheet
- Homework worksheet
- Vocabulary Reference List

SUGGESTED ACCOMMODATIONS

- Do Now:
  - Provide sentence starters, word bank, and pre-typed words for students to add to worksheet as needed.
- DVD/Discussion:
  - Provide labels with vocabulary words/definitions pre-typed for students to add to journal and/or worksheet.
  - For students with assistive communication needs participating in small group discussion, collaborate with Special Education Staff to provide participation opportunities, (i.e., pre-program voice output device, social scripts).
Allow students to have copies of discussion partner/groups completed worksheet to reference.

- Exit Ticket:
  - Consider alternative exit ticket format, (i.e., multiple choice, fill in the blank).

CALIFORNIA HEALTH EDUCATION STANDARDS

2.1.G Analyze how internal and external influences affect growth and development, relationships, and sexual behavior.

2.2.G Evaluate how culture, media, and other people influence our perceptions of body image, gender roles, sexuality, attractiveness, relationships, and sexual orientation.

4.3. Use healthy and respectful ways to express friendships, attraction, and affection.
DO NOW ACTIVITY 5 minutes

Materials
- Every student needs a notebook, journal, (or paper) and a pen
- Flipchart or whiteboard and markers

Do Now activity:

1. Write down three things that makes you unique or special.
2. Write down three things that you have in common with other people in your class or school.

Have a few students share what they wrote down. Thank them for sharing.

A Place in the Middle 40 minutes

For this lesson, teachers use the film A Place In The Middle which is available for teachers from School Health Programs Office (415) 242-2615. The film can also be streamlined from the following link http://aplaceinthemiddle.org/

Materials:
- A Place In The Middle DVD or link http://aplaceinthemiddle.org/
- Worksheet: A Place in the Middle Viewing Guide Worksheet.

A Place In The Middle is a 25 minute film based on a true story of a young Hawaiian girl who dreams of leading her school’s all-male hula troupe, and of an inspiring teacher who uses traditional culture to empower her.

Teacher Tip: The film A Place In The Middle is 25 minutes long. You can show the film in its entirety or follow the suggested guidelines for breaking the film up into shorter sections. A guide is provided below.
Introduction to Vocabulary and the Meaning of Mahu Video Clip - 2 minutes

Before watching this clip pass out the vocabulary worksheet. Read each word out loud and tell students to listen carefully and try to figure out the definition of the following words by watching the video clip titled: The Meaning of Mahu (2 min)

- **Kane** - Man, boy, masculine
- **Wahine** - Woman, girl, feminine
- **Mahu** – People with both feminine and masculine traits

Teacher Tip: Students might have many questions regarding the meaning of Mahu, tell them that watching the film will help answer some of their questions. You can also carefully read the classroom discussion guide for *A Place in The Middle* for more information about the film, Hawaiian culture, and the meaning of Mahu.

Review each definition with the class and have students write the correct definition for each of the words.

Introduction to Kane – Wahine Video Clip - 1 minute

Watch the video clip titled: **Kane – Wahine**

- **Kene** – Wahine / Wahine – Kane – Term coined by Hina (teacher) to mean girl-boys and boys-girls

Review the definition with the class and have students write the correct definition for the word.

A Place In The Middle – Who is Ho’onani Kamai - 10 minutes

Watch the first 7 minutes of the film *A Place In The Middle*. After the first seven minutes have students form pairs or small groups and discuss and answer the following questions.
1. Describe Ho’onani Kamai?
2. What is this 6th grader like?
3. Why is it important for Ho’onani to learn about Hawaiian dance and music?
4. How does “Being in the Middle” impact Ho’onani?
5. What is something that is unique to your culture that you like learning about?

**Teacher Tip:** This is a good time to review or bring up activities from the previous lesson. Ask students to remember how sometimes we can’t do something because we are a boy or a girl. What happens to people who don’t fit the boy or girl image?

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**A Place In The Middle – Who is Kumu Hina?**

10 minutes

Watch the second 7 minutes of the film *A Place In The Middle*. After watching the second seven minutes have students once again work in pairs or groups to discuss and answer the following questions.

1. Who is Kumu Hina?
2. Kumu Hina talks about high school. What was high school like for them?
3. What was something that helped Kumu Hina?
4. What does Kumu Hina teach?
5. Who is the leader of the boys group?

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**A Place In The Middle – Last 11 minutes**

15 minutes

**A Place in the Middle – last 11 minutes of the film**

Watch the second 11 minutes of the film *A Place In The Middle*. After watching the last eleven minutes of the film have students once again work in pairs or groups to discuss and answer the following questions.

1. According to Ho’onani, what’s important about learning a new skill?
2. Why was Kumu upset with the high school students?
3. What advice does Kumu give Ho’onani?
4. Why is Ho’onani a special person according to her/his/their peers?

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**Closure**

5 minutes

Pass out exit tickets and collect before dismissing students from class.
Exit Ticket: Gender 101 A Place In The Middle

Name: ___________________________________________    Period: ____________

What did you learn about gender today?

1.

2.

3.
Worksheet: A Place in the Middle Viewing Guide Worksheet

Name: __________________________________________ Date: __________________

First Section of the video

1. Who is Kumu Hina?

2. Kumu Hina talks about high school. What was high school like for them?

3. What was something that helped Kumu Hina?

4. What does Kumu Hina teach?

5. Who is the leader of the boys group?

Second Section of the video

1. According to Ho‘onani, what’s important about learning a new skill?

2. Why was Kumu upset with the high school students?

3. What advice does Kumu give Ho‘onani?
4. Why is Ho‘onani a special person according to her/his/their peers?

**Homework:** Gender 101 *A Place In The Middle*

Name: ____________________________________________   Period: ___________ Date: ___________

**Directions:** Answer the following questions.

1. How do you show respect to other people your age?

2. In the film *A Place in the Middle* Ho‘onani talks about accepting people for who they really are. What does this mean to you?

3. Explain in your own words what the film *A Place in The Middle* taught you about gender and gender expression.

4. In your opinion why is important to learn about other cultures and other points of view?

5. Write a definition for the following terms

   - **Kane – Wahine/Wahine-Kane =**

   - **Aloha =**

   - **Kumu =**
Vocabulary

Aloha – love, honor and respect; hello, goodbye

Hae Hawai‘i – flag of Hawai‘i

Halau – school; literally: a branch from which many leaves grow

Hana Ho – repeat; do it again; encore

Hawai‘i Poni‘i – former National anthem and current state song of Hawai‘i, “Hawai‘i’s own”

Huki – pull

Kanaka Maoli – native Hawaiian

Kane – man, boy, masculine

Kane – Wahine/Wahine-Kane – terms coined by Hina to mean girl-boys and boy-girls

Ku – male energy; Hawaiian god of war

Kumu – teacher; foundation, basis; root, tree trunk

Lokahi – connections; connectedness; in the film, the name of the school

Mahu – people with both feminine and masculine traits; hermaphrodite; gay

Na‘au – small intestines, gut; the seat of emotions or “Hawaiian heart”

No‘ono‘o – mind, thoughts

Pualu – assembly; to work together

Wahine – woman, girl, feminine

Definitions are from A Place In The Middle, Classroom Discussion Guide, Page 6