

Intended for Grades: 7-12 Estimated Time: 30-60 minutes

Lesson Title: SLAM POETRY – “I GOT ISSUES”

Lesson Purpose: Students will...

- \* Identify social and emotional issues that come up for many youth
- \* Discuss prevalent issues in their lives and/or school
- \* Brainstorm ways to reduce the challenges and stress they face everyday

Materials & Preparation:

\* Internet access to watch “Slam Poetry – I’ve Got Issues” Find it at:

<http://vimeo.com/60502593> (4:22 min.)

\* 8.5 x 11 sheets of paper; markers; masking or scotch tape

Background Information:

Local Slam Poets Kealoha and Jocelyn Ng pair up to deliver vignettes of everyday issues facing adolescents. Their portrayals can help illuminate common concerns and promote discussion about ways to deal with these challenges.

Steps:

1. Introduce and show the slam poetry video; invite students to remember or jot down issues that the girl is dealing with in each scene.
2. Initiate discussion by asking: “Who can tell me who Jocelyn represents? Who does Kealoha represents?”
3. Invite students to share what issues they saw in the video. As students identify these problems, write each topic in bold letters on an 8.5 x 11 sheet of paper. Post each sheet of paper in different visible locations around the room, on walls and tables.
4. Ask students to identify the most important issue they think that many students at their school might be facing. Direct them to stand by the posted sheet they feel is the most pressing issue for many.
5. Ask the groups to brainstorm ways to reduce or eliminate that issue in the lives of students and at the school. Have someone write down the ideas from the group.
6. Invite students to share their responses with the whole class. Reiterate that many people experience these issues. Review ideas shared and discuss ways people can help others who are experiencing these kinds of problems.
7. Extension Discussions/Activities:
  - Brainstorm if there is something that the students could do to address these issues at their school. If students want to improve their school environment, consider supporting them to run a school wide Pono Campaign to promote pono and peace. Learn more at: [www.growingponoschools.com](http://www.growingponoschools.com).

Reflection Questions:

- \* What was something important that you learned from this lesson?
- \* How can you use this information to help you do well in life?