



Connect with Kids

WebSource

For the Classroom In the Age of Alcohol

Discussion Questions – Segment 4

1. The party resulting in a dramatic fire and potential serious injury. What did the kids at the party do? What did the girls think about the party that they through?
2. How did the fathers describe their underage drinking policy?
3. What are your parents' rules regarding yourself and alcohol consumption? What are the consequences for breaking the rules?

Activity: Making the Scene

PROJECT AND PURPOSE

Students will explore a scenario about drinking and driving, look at it from a variety of different people's perspectives and then apply the same process to explore their own perspectives and attitudes.

OBJECTIVES

Students will analyze a situation in which alcohol was involved from a variety of perspectives; react to the situation from an assigned perspective; discuss their own personal perspectives and attitudes toward underage drinking.

MATERIALS

Copies of scenario, "Michael's Ride"; small pieces of paper with roles they will assume written on them; paper; pens/pencils, copies of Perspectives on Underage Drinking Worksheet; List of Roles: Michael; Carlos; Sharona; Don; Michael's mom; the police officer; the driver of the SUV.

PROCEDURE

Break the class into eight groups. Provide give each group one (or more) copies of the scenario "Michael's Ride." Instruct them to read the scenario and discuss the events in the story in their group. In any way you wish, assign each group one of the roles listed. Say: You are going to take on another person's perspective in regards to this scenario. Your job right now is to get into the shoes of the role you have been assigned and think about how that person would react to Michael's situation at the end of the scenario. How

would that person feel? What would your person say to Michael the next time they saw him? What would be their reasons for saying these things? You may write down your responses on a piece of paper.

Give the groups about 10 minutes to prepare their answers. When they are done, gather them back as a group and either discuss their answers or have volunteers role play their responses. Say: Each of these characters had a very particular attitude and perspective on Michael's experience. What do you think shaped their attitudes and perspectives? Ask the students to write a response to the following: What is your attitude and perspective on this scenario? What is your attitude and perspective toward underage drinking in general? How has that attitude or perspective been developed?

In the Age of Alcohol

Making the Scene: Michael's Ride

It is July, just before senior year of high school, and Michael drives Carlos to a party at Lana's. When they get there, the first thing that hits them is an all-too-familiar smell of beer. Sharona bumps into them on her way out. "Hi, guys, I'd leave now if I were you. Everybody's drunk. I'm going home."

Michael says, "Aw, c'mon, Sharona. Stay a while. It'll be fun."

She just stares him down with that look she has when she does not approve. Michael shrugs, laughs his goofy laugh and heads inside. He greets everyone, slumps in a chair and asks, "Where's mine? Who's sharing with Michael?" Don hands him a red cup and Michael responds, "Thank you, Don, you are a true friend."

Carlos remains at the door with Sharona. "How are you going to get home?" he asks her. "I'm taking the bus home, same way I got here. No way am I getting in a car with any of those guys." Sharona starts walking toward the bus stop. Carlos hesitates, looks inside at the party, then says, "Hey, wait up, I'll go with you," as he digs in his pockets for bus fare. "Don't you want to tell Michael you're leaving him?" Sharona asks.

"Nah. He won't even notice I'm gone. You want to get something to eat?"

"Yeah. I do. You paying?" jokes Sharona.

"Hey, I'm loaded tonight. Bus fare and anything you can eat off the dollar menu!" Carlos laughs as he and Sharona head to the nearest diner.

Hours later, Michael emerges from Lana's basement, strewn with red cups and ping pong balls. Tripping over the door jamb and catching himself on the bushes planted near Lana's door. "Dude, are you okay?" Don giggles uncontrollably as he watches Michael pick himself off the bushes.

"I'm okay! I'm okay! Are you okay, little plant? Ha! Hey, where's Carlos? Yoo hoo, Carlossssss! Come out, come out, wherever you are? Man, looks like he ditched me. Fine, dude. One less stop on the way home. See ya, Don," he calls to his friend who does not even hear him. Michael climbs into his car, tries three times to insert the seat belt into the lock, and finally drives off with the strap over one shoulder. "No problem, no problem, I'll just drive slowly and in control. Yeah, in control," Michael says to himself, turning on the music and lowering his windows. Reaching for a CD from the passenger side sun visor, he doesn't even see the light turn red and goes right through it. He snaps to attention as a car comes at him from the right side, horn blowing, swerving to miss him. Michael jerks his steering wheel to the left, narrowly avoiding an oncoming SUV.

"Dude!! Look where you're going!" He shouts out the window to the other drivers. It is at that point Michael realizes he might be a little bit lost. "Whoa. Where is this? What's that street sign say? No way! Not Fourth Street! Wait, I gotta turn around. Anybody coming? I'll just pull a U-ey."

As he attempts a U-turn, he does not see the flashing lights of the police car approaching. When he finally does, he panics and instead of hitting the brakes, he hits the gas. "No!! Wait!" Michael shouts as his car slams into a telephone pole, causing the airbags to suddenly inflate, crushing Michael's nose and pressing him into the seat.

Hours later, Michael's parents bail him out of the jail cell, complete with a broken nose and bloodied clothing. His driver's license suspended, Michael will be riding more often with them than without them in the months to come.

"This happens way too often. We all got really lucky this time that no one was hurt," says the police officer on duty as Michael and his parents leave the station, with a citation and court date in hand.