



Connect with Kids

WebSource

For the Classroom
In the Age of Alcohol

Discussion Questions – Segment 5

1. Describe the poor choices Ashley made the evening of her accident. Why do people take those risks?
2. Have your parents ever talked to you about the use of drugs and alcohol? If so, what did they say? If not, why not?

Activity On Trial

OBJECTIVE

- Review the harmful effects of three substances – tobacco, alcohol and marijuana.

MATERIALS

- **On Trial** handouts for each group
- **Trial Roles** overhead
- Pens and/or pencils

PROCEDURE

1. Explain to the class: *Today you will be reviewing the harmful effects of three substances: tobacco, alcohol, marijuana and inhalants, by putting each drug “on trial” for crimes against society. These “crimes” will include the social, health-related and fiscal consequences of the drug. You will also be asked to impose a “sentence” that offers a possible solution to reduce the use of the drug in society.*
2. Divide students into four groups (of preferably six to eight students). Assign each group a drug (tobacco, alcohol, marijuana or inhalants).
3. Explain: *Using the **On Trial** handout, your group is to research the social (e.g., unintended pregnancies due to alcohol use), health-related (oral cancer due to spit tobacco) and fiscal (medical costs of heart attack/strokes due to tobacco) impact of your assigned substance.*

4. When each group is ready to “go to trial,” assign roles using the ***Trial Roles*** descriptions.

Trial Roles	
Roles	Descriptions
Judge	The teacher will assume the role of the judge to keep “court proceeding” in order and everyone on task.
Jury	A group of six to eight students who will listen to the facts and decide which one of the possible “sentences” to impose.
Scientific Legal Team	A group of four to six students responsible for creating a chart that lists the social, health-related and fiscal consequences of the given gateway drug. This same group would also present options for possible “sentences” for the jury to impose.
Prosecuting Attorney	An articulate student volunteer that would present the members of his “Scientific Legal Team” to testify to the jury.
The Drug	This would be an articulate student volunteer who would act as the “drug” that is on trial. He/she would answer any questions as directed by the prosecuting attorney.

5. One member of each group will assume the role of “The Drug” and another member will be the prosecuting attorney. While one group is presenting, another group is the “jury” and the other two groups will be the “audience.” The following is an example of how each case will proceed:

- Judge: *Would the court please come to order! Ladies and gentlemen of the jury* (looking to the six to eight students seated in chairs at the side of the class). *As you know, the drug in question – Nick O’teen – has pleaded guilty and has waived his rights to an attorney. We are here today to listen to the data collected by the scientific legal team and the prosecuting attorney.*
- Judge: *Let’s hear from the three witnesses who will provide us with information on the social, health-related and fiscal consequences caused by Mr. O’teen.*

6. One-by-one, the prosecuting attorney will bring forward representatives of the scientific legal team to address the social, health-related and fiscal impact of tobacco. After all of the witnesses are done, the last member of the team will present possible sentences to impose.

- Prosecuting Attorney: *We would like to call our last expert witness to offer suggestions for possible sentences for Nick O’Teen.*
- Expert Witness: *Your Honor, while there are many possible solutions that have been used in other communities across the United States. Let me offer these three:*
 - Ban the use of smoking and using other tobacco products from all school campuses by all individuals, students and adults.*
 - Increase the sales tax on a pack of cigarettes to \$2.00 a pack. Use the revenue to implement stronger health education programs in schools.*
 - Use plain white packaging for all cigarettes sold in the state.*

7. The jury will confer and select one of the “sentences” and/or other appropriate ways to reduce the influence of the drug in their community.

On Trial

Name of Substance _____

Social Consequences

Health-Related Consequences

Fiscal Consequences

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