



SEVEN PROJECT

STUDENT DISCUSSION GUIDE

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

Discussion Guide

Use these tips and the questions that follow to facilitate a discussion on character:

- Use the first 2-3 questions to warm students up and help them feel comfortable responding.
- Encourage students to open up and share personal experiences when appropriate.
- Keep the discussion focused on the topic at hand.
- Keep the discussion positive and encouraging; discourage negative comments toward any person.
- Don't be afraid of silence. Give students a few seconds to form a response. If no one responds, give your own response to the question then ask someone directly to give their opinion.

Discussion Questions

“In 2005, one-quarter of all students in grades 9–12 reported that someone had offered, sold, or given them an illegal drug on school property in the past 12 months.” – from National Center for Education Statistics www.nces.ed.gov .

Have you ever been offered alcohol? An illegal drug? How old were you when you were first offered a drink of alcohol? An illegal drug?

What was your response when you were first offered alcohol? Illegal drugs?

“Thirty-one percent of high school students (more than four million) and nine percent of middle school students (more than one million) see illegal drugs used or sold weekly.” — From the National Survey of American Attitudes on Substance Abuse XII: Teens and Parents, the twelfth annual back-to-school survey conducted by The National Center on Addiction and Substance Abuse (CASA) at Columbia University. (Published August 2007).

When was the last time you saw someone use drugs or alcohol at school?

What negative results have you witnessed from the use of alcohol and/or drugs? (loss of concentration, damaged relationships, drop in grades, loss of friends, change in personality, trouble with authorities, accidental death, etc.)

What is your opinion on the use of illegal drugs and alcohol among students?

How many of you know someone whose life has been affected by drugs and alcohol?

What are some of the negative consequences that students may experience if they experiment with drugs and alcohol?

If you choose to avoid alcohol and drugs, what would your friends say or do?

If you were pressured to try alcohol or drugs, how would you respond?