

Title: Addiction and Society

Date: Week 3, Thursday

Of Students: ~30

Class: Biology

OBJECTIVE:

- Students examine how society often treats substance addiction differently than a disease in spite of their similarities

MATERIALS:

- 30 copies of “Hip Hop and Friends Turn Up the Volume” article obtained via the Hip Hop Circuit website. This article discusses the Hip Hop Movement aimed at a repeal of the Rockefeller Laws.
- 30 copies of “Officials Consider Vast Expansion Of Methadone” article. This article discusses San Francisco’s switch in policy allowing physicians to prescribe methadone so that recovering heroine addicts will not have to go to clinics.

NOTES:

- Write the following question on the board before class “If the nature of addiction is similar to the nature of disease (in action, symptoms, and hardships placed on the victim) should our society treat addiction in a similar way to the way it treats diseases? If so, do you think our society lives up to this belief? Why or why not?”

STEPS:

ANITICIPATORY SET: Students are urged to hold their answers to the question on the board for now. They are told that they have plenty of information to answer the question but that there is a bit more. **(1 minute)**

- 1) Teacher hands out copies for both articles to students. Asks students keep the question on the board in mind as well as their prior knowledge as the class reads both of these articles out loud **(1 minute)**
- 2) Teacher chooses students to read parts of the first article (Hip Hop and friends...) (2-3 minutes per student) **(15 minutes)**
- 3) Teacher begins to probe question but leads in to reading of the second article before discussion gets too heated. **(5 minutes)**
- 4) Teacher chooses students to read parts of the second article (Officials Consider Vast Expansion Of Methadone) (2-3 minutes per student) **(15 minutes)**
- 5) Large group discussion of the original question **(18 minutes)**

FOLLOW-UP ACTIVITY:

- In the following class meeting (Week 3, Friday) students will use their knowledge gained about US drug policy to compare it to the policies of another country.

ASSESSMENT:

- Participation in discussion will be used to assess students

LITERACY ASPECT:

- Directed group reading activity fosters critical thinking about the two articles