

Alcohol Awareness Month Using the News

The following activities correlate to the Florida Standards for middle and high schools.

Health: HE.612.B.3.1; HE.612.B.3.3; HE.612.B.4.1; HE.612.B.4.2; HE.612.B.4.3;
HE.612.B.5.2; HE.612.B.6.3; HE.612.C.1.8; HE.612.C.2.1; HE.612.C.2.2; HE.612.C.2.3;
HE.612.C.2.4; HE.612.C.2.5; HE.612.C.2.7; HE.612.C.2.8; HE.612.P.8.1; HE.612.P.8.3;
HE.612.P.8.4 **Language Arts:** LAFS.612.L.1.1; LAFS.612.L.1.2; LAFS.612.L.2.3;
LAFS.612.L.3.4; LAFS.612.L.3.6; LAFS.612.RI.1.1; LAFS.612.RI.1.2; LAFS.612.RI.1.3;
LAFS.612.RI.2.4; LAFS.612.RI.3.7; LAFS.612.SL.1.1; LAFS.612.SL.1.2; LAFS.612.SL.1.3;
LAFS.612.SL.2.4; LAFS.612.SL.2.5; LAFS.612.SL.2.6; LAFS.612.W.1.1; LAFS.612.W.1.2;
LAFS.612.W.1.3; LAFS.612.W.2.4; LAFS.612.W.2.5; LAFS.612.W.2.6; LAFS.612.W.3.7;
LAFS.612.W.3.8; LAFS.612.W.3.9



Alcohol use is a prevalent issue in today's society. From health concerns to financial troubles, to lawsuits, this controversy presents itself to us in the daily newspaper. Students should look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for an article that discusses some form of controversy focused on or related to the use of alcohol. Students should analyze the elements of the controversy. What are the causes and effects? What is the outcome? Is there an economic impact? What could have been done to prevent or lessen the controversy? Write down your thoughts in a journal or blog. Share your thoughts and article with your classmates.



Advertisements can be misleading, especially advertisements for items that may be considered unhealthy, such as alcohol, tobacco, drugs, and unhealthy food choices. Split your class into small groups. Within the groups, have the students look for advertisements in the *Tampa Bay Times*. Tell the students to find several advertisements for food and beverage items and then analyze the message the advertiser is promoting. Have the students write down the message of the ad, the images that are used to support that message and whether it is misleading. Share the information with your classmates.

Have the students look specifically at the alcohol advertisements and examine them for persuasive techniques used in advertising. What claims are being made in the advertisements? Are the claims realistic? Are they persuasive? Can students find any questionable statements made about the product?



Drugs and alcohol have more significant negative effects on a teenage brain than on an adult brain. The teenage brain is still growing and developing, and abuse of drugs or alcohol can interfere with these processes. One of the most significant things to be affected is the area of the brain that controls judgment. Impulse decisions, careful consideration of consequences and good long-term decision-making processes all suffer when drugs and alcohol enter a teen's brain. This can lead to impaired teens getting behind the wheel of a car or becoming involved in violent situations or other behaviors that could result in illness, injury or death.

Do you know anyone who has made a bad decision under the influence of alcohol or other drugs? What were the consequences of that decision? Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* for examples of consequences that appear to be the result of poor judgement. Write about the actions and consequences in a fully developed paragraph. Analyze what could have been done differently to change the outcome.



Driving under the influence of alcohol and other drugs is dangerous and against the law. Monitor the *Tampa Bay Times* for a few weeks. How many people are involved in DUI accidents or arrests during this time period? Based on what you read and see in your community, write down your thoughts about why people drive under the influence. Research alternatives to this behavior. Write an argument essay discussing your ideas. Share your thoughts and what you have learned with your class.



Becoming a role model for another person is a great way to influence good behavior. Look in the *Tampa Bay Times* and find a person who is a good role model. You might even find good examples on the comics pages. Make a list of reasons why this individual is a good role model. Next, pretend you are going to interview this person for your school newspaper. Write out six questions that you would ask this person about being a role model. Trade questions with a friend and answer them as you think the role model would. Share your thoughts about the characteristics of a good role model in the form of a Facebook, Instagram or blog post. Share what you have written with your class.



It is time to use your critical thinking skills. Review the articles and ads in the *Tampa Bay Times* for a one week. Save all articles that focus on health, fitness, drugs and alcohol. Write down the main points for each article. Be sure to comment on whether the article is focusing on positive or negative choices. Choose one of the points represented in one of the articles to write a research paper. You can focus your research and paper on any aspect of the article. After your paper is written, create an oral presentation for your class. Explain whether the information you found is positive, negative, helpful or harmful. Be sure to use specific examples from the article and your research in your paper and presentation.



Look through the *Tampa Bay Times* for stories and photos about fun activities that do not involve drinking alcohol. Research and write a newspaper story about an event or activity that you have not participated in before. Remember to answer the questions who, what, when, where, why and how. If you can, do this activity or go to this event and write a review about the experience.



There are plenty of fun things to do in Florida that do not involve drinking alcohol. Look through your *Tampa Bay Times* for activities a teenager might engage in instead of drinking alcohol. Make a list on a poster. As a class, list the positive effects of participating in each type of activity.



Read the *Tampa Bay Times* for stories involving drinking and driving crashes. Discuss with your classmates the risks involved in drinking and driving. Make a list of suggestions for how to keep people who've been drinking from driving a car while intoxicated. Using the advertisements and advertorials in the newspaper as models, create an advertisement to encourage people not to drink and drive.



Peer pressure can influence people at any age. Young people and adults often encounter peer pressure, in which they feel pressured to do things that may be harmful to them. Peer pressure can influence people to do things they would not normally do. Find an article in the *Tampa Bay Times* in which peer pressure may have played a role. Write about the peer pressure you see, read and hear about in the newspaper, at your school and in your community. Explore why it is important for people to be prepared for situations where they may feel pressured to do something that may have negative effects on their lives. Write about this article, focusing on the article from the newspaper and your personal observations. Be sure to use specific examples from the article to support your ideas.

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