

Lakewood City Schools
Course of Study for Practical Communication Skills
Revised: 2011

Course Overview: The Practical Communications class is a one-semester course that refines presentation skills, speech skills, reading and analysis skills, and discussion skills through the lens of Teenage Culture. Throughout the first quarter, students will focus their efforts on the evolution of the culture of teenagers through a variety of reading materials, television shows, and activities. Throughout the second quarter, students will focus on the roles teenagers play in today’s society through a variety of reading materials, films, and activities. In both quarters, students will use “practical communication skills” such as giving speeches/presentations, doing research, creating music, discussing film, and creating surveys.

Quarter 1: GROWING UP...BECOMING A TEEN!

At the beginning of the senior year, many students are still unsure about their place in the world. They are ready to jump into the real world, but they have very little idea about where they fit and what obligations they hold to the rest of society. The focus of the first quarter is to discuss the evolution of the culture of teenagers. The literature in this quarter will focus on growing up and what events shaped the lives and set into motion the beliefs many teens hold today.

Quarter 2: WHAT WOULD YOU DO IF...?

The focus of the second quarter is to use the discussions from the first quarter to identify issues/problems that teens face in today’s society and decide what roles teens have in the society in which they live.

| | THEME / ESSENTIAL QUESTIONS | TEXTS | ACTIVITIES | STANDARDS |
|-------------------------------|---|--|--|--|
| 1st Quarter | <p>GROWING UP...BECOMING A TEEN!</p> <p>At the beginning of the senior year, many students are still unsure about their place in the world. They are ready to jump into the real world, but they have very little idea about where they fit and what obligations they hold to the rest of society.</p> <p>The focus of the first quarter is to discuss the evolution of the culture of teenagers. The literature in this quarter will focus on growing up and what events shaped the lives and set into motion the beliefs many teens hold today. The questions below will guide discussion:</p> <p>How have teens changed over the years? What expectations have changed for teens over the course of time? How are teens viewed today? Why? What issues/problems do teens face today?</p> <p>How are those issues/problems expressed and addressed? Do the voices of this generation's teens matter?</p> | <p>Text: <i>The Rise and Fall of the American Teenager</i> by Hine (excerpts)</p> <p>Literature of Growing Up: (excerpts)</p> <p>"The Seventh Summer", "Growth" by Philip Levine</p> <p>"On Turning Ten" by Billy Collins</p> <p>"Eleven" by Sandra Cisneros</p> <p>"Nothing Gold Can Stay" Robert Frost</p> <p><i>Introduction to The Essential Frankenstein</i> by Leonard Wolf</p> <p>"Where Are You Going, Where Have You Been" by Joyce Carol Oates</p> <p>"Indian Education" by Sherman Alexie</p> | <p><u>Scrapbook</u> – Trace the years of your formation as a teen (using pictures and written captions, design a scrapbook that traces your formation as a teen from middle school to high school) Six week project – due each Friday</p> <p>Film Analysis – <u>Speech/Presentation</u> on a film that shaped (or that you remember) your childhood. i.e. <i>The Goonies</i></p> <p>Soundtrack – Create a <u>music soundtrack</u> for your life that reflects your growth from middle to high school (adolescents to teen)</p> | <p>WA – 1,2,6</p> <p>WA – 2; C:OV – 8,9,10</p> <p>WA – 2</p> |

| | | | | |
|--|--|---|--|--|
| | | <p>"Barbie Doll" by Marge Piercy</p> <p><i>Teenage Wasteland</i> by Anne Tyler</p> <p>Mall Rats by William Glaberson</p> <p>Music: (Teacher/students select contemporary music to listen to that reflects teens)</p> <p>Television Shows: Wonder Years Saved by the Bell My So-Called Life One Tree Hill The OC (Etc...)</p> <p>Films: Breakfast Club Mean Girls</p> <p>**Other print and non-print texts can be used at the teacher's Discretion</p> | <p><u>Research Project:</u> Portrayal of teens on television and film.</p> | <p>WA – 6</p> <p>R – 1-7; WA – 3,4,5</p> |
|--|--|---|--|--|

| | | | | |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|
| <p>2nd Quarter</p> | <p>What would you do if...?</p> <p>The focus of the second quarter is to use the discussions from the first quarter to identify issues/problems that teens face in today's society and decide what roles teens have in the society in which they live.</p> <p>Do teens have an obligation to the people around them? Why/Why not? What do students feel are injustices teens face in today's world? What problems do teens face today that teens in the past didn't? How do today's teens create change?</p> | <p>Texts: Various fiction/non-fiction texts/video clips that show teens (today) in situations – use the news!!!</p> <p><u>Debate</u> – Facebook, MySpace, Cell Phones, iPods, YouTube, etc. How have these things shaped teens today?</p> <p>Film: (clips) 60 Minutes – David Cash: Bad Samaritain</p> <p>Reading with above clip – Thirty-Eight Witnesses by Martin Gansburg</p> <p>ABC Primetime – What would you Do? (episodes)</p> <p>Film Analysis – Crash (Unit plan – 2-3weeks)</p> <p>Film Analysis – The Laramie Project (unit plan – 2-3 weeks)</p> | <p>1 Week! – Student led discussions and presentations on injustices in their community (this must be done at the beginning of the quarter)</p> <p><u>Survey</u> – Students develop surveys based on the above discussions and distribute to school for analysis and discussion (Discuss how to make good surveys!)</p> <p>Use available <i>Crash</i> Unit plan online or unit plan on English server)</p> <p>Use available <i>Laramie Project</i> Unit plan online or unit</p> | <p>WP – 1-17</p> <p>WP – 1-17; WA – 3,4</p> <p>WA – 1,2,6</p> <p>C:OV – 1-10</p> |
|--------------------------------------|--|--|---|---|

| | | | | |
|--|--|--|---|--|
| | | | <p>plan on English server)</p> <p>Final Project – <u>Video Diary</u> of the student's lives in Lakewood. (Where do you fit in your community? How do you navigate your community? How can you make change? (Flip Cams or iPod may be available)</p> | |
|--|--|--|---|--|

Resources:

- Writer's Inc., 2001 (Write Source/Houghton Mifflin Company)