**Webquest: Drugs, Alcohol, and the Teen Brain**

I. Type the following link into google: <http://www.scholastic.com/headsup/assets/poster.htm> and identify how drugs affect each part of your body.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Brain  | Liver |
| Nose | Kidneys |
| Mouth | Bones |
| Heart | Skin |
| Lungs |  |

II. Visit <http://www.bloodalcohol.info/how-alcohol-affects-the-brain.php> and identify what specific parts of your brain do and how they’re affected by alcohol.

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| Part of the Brain | Normal Function | Impact of Alcohol? |
| Cerebral Cortex |  |  |
| Limbic System |  |  |
| Cerebellum |  |  |
| Hypothalamus & Pituitary Gland |  |  |
| Medulla |  |  |

III. Type in the website: http://www.teenshealth.org/teen

Click on Drugs and Alcohol and then click on Alcohol

1. What percentage of high school students have tried alcohol?
2. List some strategies to avoid drinking.

Go back to the homepage of drugs and alcohol and click on drugs. Click on drugs what you should know.

1. How do drugs work?
2. Describe the difference of a drug being helpful or harmful.

IV. Alcohol affects teens differently than adults. Answer the following questions about the article “Alcohol a Two-Edged Sword for Teens.” Type the title of the article into google to get there.

1. When compared to an adult brain, what two things hold true for adolescents and alcohol?
2. What two problems can this cause for adolescents?

V. Visit <http://pubs.niaaa.nih.gov/publications/arh27-2/186-196.htm> to explore the effects of alcohol on memory by reading the report “What Happened? Alcohol, Memory Blackouts, and the Brain.”

1. What is the difference between passing out and blacking out?
2. Reflect on the potential consequences either activity could have for an adolescent your age.

VI. Visit <http://easyread.drugabuse.gov/drugs-of-abuse.php> to explore factors relating to drug abuse and addiction.

a. Click on What is Addiction? Why is drug addiction considered to be a brain disease?

b. Click on Drugs that People Abuse. Why do people take drugs in the first place?

1. What are the 7 abused drugs?
2. Click on Prevent Drug Abuse. Scroll down and click on Help Children and Teens Stay Drug Free. Why is adolescence such a crucial time for preventing drug abuse?

VII. Type in the website: Truth. The Anti-Drug: Effects of Alcohol Intoxication:<http://www.indiana.edu/~adic/effects.html>

Questions 1-3 will be under the “Specific Effects (related to the Blood Alcohol Concentration (BAC))” section of the page. 1. What are the effects of alcohol at the BAC level: 0.10-0.125?

2. What are the effects of alcohol at the BAC level: 0.25?

3. What are the effects of alcohol at the BAC level: 0.40 and up?

Questions 4-5 will be under the “Effects of Alcohol Intoxication” at the top of the page.

4. What is the “general effect” of alcohol intoxication?

5. What are the “visual signs” of alcohol intoxication?

VIII. Reflection – What is it that makes drug and alcohol use so appealing to teenagers? Is it the media, is it the fact that it’s illegal, is it boredom? Do you think drug and alcohol abuse is a problem in our school or local community? Why or why not?

VIIII. Application**-** You are now a 30-40 year old parent of a teenager. How would you talk to your child about drugs and alcohol? What would you want to tell them to protect them or keep them safe or to help them make informed decisions about their behavior?