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Annotated Bibliography

Bernstein, Elizabeth. "Worried about a moody teen?" *Wall Street Journal*. Print.

Studies have shown that a significant amount of teenagers suffer from a psychiatric disease, many of whom suffered for quite some time with no detection of an illness. Therefore, parents and teachers should really strive to be in tune with their children and students so that signs of mental illness can be detected early, before a teen's life is significantly altered by changed behavior.

Burgess, Kelly. "Readers for Life: Keep Your Teen Reading." *iParenting*. Web. 7 Oct. 2010.

Despite the growing genre of Young Adult Literature, more and more middle and high school students are dropping reading habits. This could be partially due to the focus on reading the "classics" in school, books that students feel do not relate to them, which make reading no longer fun. To combat this, teachers should focus more on books that cater to young adults and to classics that are written for a younger audience. As a future English teacher, it is important to take opinions like these about the current curriculum and consider them carefully before making decisions and changes.

Buskey, Nikki. "Oaklawn students engage in oily experiment." *Houmatoday.com*. 23 Sept. 2010. Web. 24 Sept. 2010.

Eighth graders were able to see a presentation doen by a real scientist in order to learn about how the oil spill is affecting seafood and animals. Using a fish tank filled with water and vegetable oil, the spill was recreated and students were able to interact by using various "cleanup" tools to get the oil out. This was very effective because it dispelled fears about eating seafood and was also an interactive experiment. Here we see a way teachers can make their lessons relevant to their middle school students' lives. I need to always be asking myself how I can make current events a useful and successful part of my curriculum.

Dice, Angela. "Mountain View Middle School Students to Be Disciplined for Taking Pills." *Kitsap Sun*. 22 Sept. 2010. Web. 24 Sept. 2010.

One middle school boy brought his parents' prescription pills to school and shared them with other students, who then got very ill and had to be admitted to the hospital; one boy even had his stomach pumped. The school and PTA have dealt with this issue in several ways, including suspension, drug abuse counseling, and consultation with juvenile court. The parents of the boy who brought the pills are "devastated," and contrary to common assumptions about troubled kids, they are actually very involved in their son's life. This is truly a wake-up call—even the most conscientious parents need to talk to their children about the dangers of drugs and alcohol so that incidences like this cease to occur.

Knight, Chris. "Anti-bullying program presented to students at Petrova school." *Adirondack Daily Enterprise*. 14 Sept. 2010. Web. 18 Sept. 2010.

Middle school students had an assembly teaching them about why bullying is wrong and how they can prevent or avoid it. The presentation was done in a "fun" way, with skits and comedy. The principal believes that students need to hear these kinds of messages from other people; they do not like to listen to teachers and parents, who are constantly telling them what to do. This program was implemented after a serious bullying problem was noticed in the school, proving that bullying is still a big issue for middle school students.

Martin, Annie. "Students work together on garden." *Battle Creek Enquirer*. 13 Sept. 2010. Web. 18 Sept. 2010.

A group of college women worked with middle school girls on creating a garden for their community. The project was a learning experience for both groups—the college students got to develop relationships with the young girls, who often do not get enough attention or have too much responsibility. This shows that not everything happening with middle school students is negative. Here is a positive instance of middle school girls learning, growing, and having fun while serving their community.

Morrison, Gwen. "Fatal Trend: Pro-Anorexia Websites." *iParenting*. Web. 7 Oct. 2010.

Websites that encourage Anorexia as a healthy lifestyle are becoming a problem among young girls, because they feel the life-threatening disease is normal and that there is a sense of community with other girls like them who are obsessed with body image. As we often hear, parents need to be informed on the sites their

children are visiting and be aware of any odd behaviors that begin at home. After hearing numerous times about these types of websites that encourage and give tips to young people about how to “get better” at having an eating disorder, I am very worried. The Internet gives teens such easy access to these kinds of extremely detrimental information.

Olson, Jeremy. “Schools Want to Delete the Cyberbully.” *Star Tribune*. Print.

Online harassment is becoming a serious problem with transescent youth. The problem is worsened because students are bringing cyber-bullying into schools through cellular and smart phones. Also, online bullying is harder for parents and teachers to detect because their children and students are often more tech-savvy. In schools and at home, adults need to become more aware of what teens are doing online so that they have safer environments.

Swords, Tara. “Adventures of a Reluctant Reader: Learning at an Individual Pace.” *iParenting*. Web. 30 Sept. 2010.

Though from a parent’s perspective, this article has a lot of useful information about differentiation and how important it is to realize when a student needs to take a more individualized approach to a subject in order to succeed. Although the primary example concerns a student who reads at a slower pace, the advice can also be applied to students who are reluctant to even give reading a chance. The lesson is that recognizing when a student is having trouble and trying to address the problem can make all the difference in academic success.

Taillon, Greg. "Cell Phones for Kids? Do Kids Really Need Cell Phones?" *iParenting*. Web. 30 Sept. 2010.

This article takes a look at the current growing trend for younger and younger children to possess cell phones, which are permeating nearly every area of life in often negative ways. Cell phones hold an allure for parents because they are relatively cheap and convenient ways to keep track of children, but there are other costs that must be paid. Among these are the disruptions to school learning environments—as more children obtain cell phones, they are becoming more of a problem in classrooms. Not only that, but cell phones can be very dangerous to teens, who often talk and text while driving, or who use the photo and video features on their phones to take and post inappropriate pictures of themselves and classmates on the web.