



High School Teachers: use BOSTON TEENS IN PRINT in class!

CURRICULUM GUIDE

for January 2009 issue

Writing for a real audience

Ask students to tackle a local issue in a letter to a politician, newspaper, or organization.

- Ask students to respond to the idea of a student union in the Boston Public Schools as described by Damien Leach in the BSAC Buzz on page 8. Students can send their letters by email to *Teens in Print* and the Boston Student Advisory Council (email addresses are on pages 3 and 8 of TiP respectively).
- Ask students to write a letter to President-elect Barack Obama focusing on a particular issue the way students from CASH did on pages 12 and 13. Send the letters to the White House and to the editors of local newspapers.
- Ask students to share strategies for fighting global warming and climate change. Have them read the two articles on pages 10 and 11 and then write a “Top Five” list of additional ways to reduce, re-use and recycle. Send them to *Teens in Print*.

Writing a persuasive essay

Assign an essay to students asking them to take a position on the old saying “Sticks and stone may break my bones, but words will never hurt me.” Does this old fashioned parental admonition to children to ignore playground taunts work? Do words alone hurt? Ask students to write a persuasive essay supporting or refuting this saying.

- To get students thinking about this topic, have them read the two pieces in the In Your Face section on pages 4 and 5. Some students believe the term “gay” is no longer pejorative because

it is so frequently used; others say that's not the case, especially if you are someone who is gay. What is the power of language? What is the power of the casually used slur?

- Back issues of *Teens in Print* contain articles on the casual use of other slurs at www.bostontip.com. Scroll down the home page; archived issues are available in pdf format on the lower left side of the page. See the May 2004 issue ("Do you speak 'spic'?" on page 15) and the May 2007 issue ("Breaking the n-word silence" on page 5).
- A good way to get students writing is to have them start with a personal anecdote about name calling and its outcomes. They can then move from the specific incident to the broader topic of words and their power to help build their case.

- You might also have students read a *Boston Globe* story on the new website www.juicycampus.com in the *Boston Globe* on December 29, 2008. College students can write anything they want about their peers on this website. It's totally anonymous—and quickly gaining controversy. Use this article to add to the conversation about the power of language. (http://www.boston.com/lifestyle/articles/2008/12/29/dorm_rumors/)
 - Ask students to write about "honest" postings on MySpace and Facebook and the implications of anonymous electronic communications.

- Have students submit their final drafts to *Teens in Print*.

UPCOMING SUBMISSION DEADLINES

For the March 2009 paper: January 27

For the May 2009 paper: April 7

See submission guidelines on page 3 of Teens in Print.

As always, we welcome your feedback about the paper. We also love to hear how you incorporate it into your classroom instruction!

Thanks for reading,

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