

Progressive Drug Educators

Overview : For years, the divide between what our children are taught about drugs and the facts as established by current scientific research has grown wider. Since the DARE program and the drug czar's office were established, rational debate on the topic of drugs has been nearly non-existent, and only the most strident propaganda is allowed to reach our schools.

Ironically, receiving DARE education and watching anti-drug ads actually correlates with *increased* use of drugs among students, so the more the government does, the bigger the problem gets. This [well documented truth](#) is inadmissible, however, because drug warriors refuse to admit their failure, or let go of their taxpayer funded cash cow.

While these programs seek to instill fear of drugs, linking meth and heroin use to marijuana through the disproved [“Gateway Theory”](#), more pharmaceuticals are available (and advertised) for every possible condition, children are routinely prescribed amphetamines, and the [growing abuse of prescription opiates](#) such as oxycontin rivals the use of heroin.

Meanwhile, the [AMA has called for medical evaluation of cannabis](#), a quarter of states have changed their cannabis laws, and psychedelic research is entering a new heyday. Young people are aware of this, and need the entire landscape framed realistically to assess the situation, think critically, and stay safe.

Progressive Drug Educators (“PDE”) was founded to expand upon the work of Sheldon Norberg, and become *the* recognized source for honest, intelligent, scientifically accurate drug education programs. While his unique perspective has guided the creation of this program, its strength comes from dozens of experts committed to the prospect of a safer, well-educated society. Through interviews with doctors, psychiatrists, therapists, neuroscientists, chemists, and others, we marshal the evidence, not for fear, but for understanding and discernment.

Starting with the premise that humans use a variety of means to alter their consciousness, *and that kids do too*, PDE programs accept the fact that we live in a society where drug use *is the norm*, and look for ways to minimize the impact. Respecting the fact that young people will make *their own* decisions, *whether we like them or not*, PDE programs tease out the critical information to help them gain a real perspective on drug use of all kinds, in a holistic context.

Reframing the argument *against* drugs allows us to openly investigate its contradictions. With honesty in our favor, we can more realistically point out the pitfalls of drug *use*, and try to prevent misuse, abuse, dependency and addiction.

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Our Program: Our initial offering will be a 4-6 hour program for 6th-10th grades, designed for direct delivery on DVD, with the essential follow-up Q&A as a regular webcast and/or podcast. In this way, *families*, rather than schools, can take up this critical issue. While some may find it challenging to work with this material at home, we believe the rewards will be well worth the effort.

A preliminary outline of the program includes

OPENING Discussion of my history

What Drugs are You On? – Sugar & Caffeine

A look at how chemically altered students are

The 1st Addicts – My Parents

My realizations about drug use, and where they came from

Drugs and Society – The Big Lie

How distorting consciousness has become big business, and how to read the signs

History of Drug Use – Tea, Opium, Sugar, Tobacco, Coffee, Chocolate

A little recognition of how we got to this point

Alcohol

Brain killer #1

Consciousness Alteration & Human Behavior

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Dealing with emotions

Weed and the “Gateway” Theory

Valid theory or not, weed is the point of entry into drug culture

Party Drugs

Psychedelics, their historic context and current dangers

Drugs & Chinese Medicine

Self-Awareness is the ultimate tool

Social Pressure - Staying Cool

Being a teen is not easy - respect your feelings

Self Awareness Q & A