

Persuasive Essay Draft

it won't hurt just to take a sip. I can handle a couple drinks. If I don't drink it, they'll think I'm a square. These are some of the things that can be going through a teen's head before they consume alcohol for the first time. Though they may think it won't hurt them, they aren't totally aware of the full repercussions of drinking alcohol. Sadly, for several teens, those repercussions reach them before they have a chance to make the right decision.

A teenager's typical mindset is that they can take care of themselves and have matured into a young adult. They believe that they're capable of doing what they want and can handle the consequences of all their actions, even those that they still aren't old enough to take part in. Consuming alcohol is at the top of the list of those activities.

According to Focus Adolescent Services, "The three leading causes of death for 15- to 24-year-olds are automobile crashes, homicides and suicides - alcohol is a leading factor in all three." This supports the argument that when teens take part in drinking alcohol, things are likely to lead to others and many times they end up injured in car accidents and other hazardous accidents.

The average teen who drinks alcohol for the first time doesn't want to, but is lead to do it by peer pressure. Because the student can't take the pressure, they crack and that's how they begin the habit. If the teen isn't able to fight the peer pressure, the best person to stop this is the parents.

The parent is the first person on the list who can stop the problem before it begins. All that is needed are some simple questions: "Where are you going? Who are you going with? Will you have supervision? What will you be doing? Are you driving anywhere else? Who's driving?" These kinds of questions can get the parent informed on what the kid is up to. Of course we all know teens are experts at one thing: lying.

You can't stop your kids from lying to you about where they're going, and sometimes kids need to feel that you can trust them. So the way to prevent these influences from having unwanted effects on your kids is to raise them right from when they're young. You should talk to your kids about these things from when they're young so that they grow up knowing certain things aren't for them.

The truth about life (and more importantly parenting) is that you can't stop your kids from doing what they want. I know this well being a kid myself. The key to keeping your kids safe and letting them know that some things just aren't for them is to talk to them on a one on one level and letting them know what's right and what's wrong. You may not be the last influence in your child's life, but you are the first. Make it count.