

Crossroads School Assembly

Crossroads School Assembly is a mainstream program aimed at addressing the pressures of alcohol, drugs, suicide, violence and sex to teenagers living in our demanding society. The assembly is targeted to international, national, regional and local schools and universities.

The program has been presented to more than 2 million students in public and private schools alike and is praised by administrators and principals as one of the finest and most effective school assemblies ever presented to their student body.

Crossroads is a 30-minute address where the Crossroads Team, including Jay Lowder, shares experiences and stories to meet students on their level. His speaking ability is engaging, allowing him to find common ground to address serious issues that are hindering youth around the world and need to be addressed. Topics include:

- **Alcohol¹**
 - Approximately 49.4 percent of students have used alcohol at least once.
 - Approximately 27.8 percent of students in the eighth grade or below have tried alcohol, and 68.2 percent of those in the 11th and 12th grade have.

- **Drugs²**
 - A new drug report issued December 2009 by the U.S. National Institute on drug abuse indicates that fewer teens are using methamphetamine, but marijuana and prescription drug use still remains high.
 - The use of newer drugs, such as the hallucinogenic salvia leaf and the prescription drug Adderall, seems to be gaining in popularity. In 2013, 15.0 percent of high school seniors used a prescription drug non-medically in the past year. The survey shows continued abuse of Adderall, commonly used to treat attention deficit hyperactivity disorder, or ADHD, with 7.4 percent of seniors reporting taking it for non-medical reasons in the past year. Five percent of high school seniors admit they used the narcotic painkiller Vicodin, and almost 4 percent said they used OxyContin as least once in the last year. Fifteen percent of teens said they got the prescription drugs from their doctor, 20.5 percent from dealers, and 59.4 percent were

¹ <http://www.drugabuse.gov/drugs-abuse/alcohol>

² <http://www.drugabuse.gov/publications/drugfacts/high-school-youth-trends>
<http://www.monitoringthefuture.org/data/13data/13drtbl5.pdf>

given free-of-charge from friends or relatives. Sadly, 9.8 percent said they “took” them.

- **Suicide**³
 - Suicide is the third leading cause of death among 15-24 year olds.
 - Among young people aged 10-14 years, the rate has doubled in the last two decades.

- **Violence**⁴
 - Twelve percent reported being in a physical fight on school property in the 12 months before the survey. Seven percent reported being threatened or injured with a weapon on school property one or more times in the 12 months before the survey.
 - Twenty percent reported being bullied on school property and 16 percent reported being bullied electronically during the 12 months before the survey

- **Sex**⁵
 - By the time they graduate, 62 percent of high school students have had sexual intercourse.
 - Fourteen percent of high school students had had four or more sex partners during their life.

Through Crossroads School Assembly, Lowder delivers a highly motivational message to capture the thoughts and attention of students, leading them to listen and evaluate their own “crossroads” while empowering them with the knowledge that they can make a difference.

He effectively communicates not only the “real-life” experiences of others but his own dramatic story of attempted suicide. Lowder does not demand or correct, but meets the students where they are, leaving them with the challenge, “Who wants to live?”

³http://www.aacap.org/AACAP/Families_and_Youth/Facts_for_Families/Facts_for_Families_Pages/Teen_Suicide_10.aspx

American Foundation for Suicide Prevention

http://www.cdc.gov/violenceprevention/pdf/school_violence_fact_sheet-a.pdf

⁵ <http://www.advocatesforyouth.org/publications/publications-a-z/413-adolescent-sexual-behavior-i-demographics>

Testimonials

"We all know the formal curriculum our students are required to master in order to be successful in the world today, but Jay is a master of the informal curriculum all students must master in order to flourish in this world! His message is beneficial and encouraging to students regardless of situation in life. I would recommend Crossroads School Assemblies to any administrator wanting to impact the lives of students in a powerful way."

*Doug Young, Principal
Ed Irons Middle School
Lubbock, Texas*

"... the information you provided our students will help them comprehend the importance of making positive choices in various areas of their lives, including social relationships and social behaviors. Again, I want to thank you for your outstanding presentation and the powerful message you brought to our students."

*Stephanie West, Principal
Ruidoso High School
Ruidoso, N.M.*

"Our students were spellbound by his frank discussion of issues and challenges faced by them each day. Startling statistics and his personal testimonials of tragedies that resulted from young people making poor choices had a powerful impact on our students that day - something that is often difficult to accomplish in our society of 'invincible' youth."

*Sharon G. Wilson, Principal
Scott High School
Huntsville, Tenn.*

"I like the way you relate real-life experiences to the students without them feeling like you are preaching to them. I could tell my students were getting a lot out of your talk by the way they were mesmerized and listened to every word."

*Mitchell Fontenot, Principal
Eunice High School
Eunice, La.*