

TEENS SING OUT

A Teacher's Guide To Statewide Teen Abstinence-Only Education Program

Rules & Guidelines for "Teens Sing Out" Song Lyrics Contest

Deadline: June 4, 2004

Sponsored by the Connecticut Department of Public Health

Partnering with Connecticut Association of Schools and Connecticut Radio Network.

The Connecticut Department of Public Health has developed a statewide Education program called: "Teens Sing Out" that asks your students and young people to express themselves on the "risky behavior," most notably sex, facing today's teens.

Lyrics Writing Contest:

The contest is simple. Ask your students to write lyrics or just simply a poem on their concerns about teen sexual behavior—how risky sexual behavior can be a life-altering experience.

Each class, with your guidance, will select the best lyrics/poem—one per class, after-school program or youth group. Professional musicians will then adapt the winning lyrics/poem to music. The lyrics will be the basis of a Statewide public awareness campaign. The class will "star" in its own professionally produced radio commercial.

What "Teens Sing Out" is about:

Some things we do are very safe and very rarely will get a teen into any trouble or cause us any harm. Other things we sometimes think about doing or actually do are risky—such as drinking, drugs and sexual behavior. We know if we engage in these activities bad things may happen to us (we may get into trouble or be harmed in some way). The Connecticut Department of Public Health in partnership with the Connecticut Association of Schools and Connecticut Radio Network has created "Teens Sing Out" to encourage young people to work together to express—through song—their concerns and fears of the risky behavior, specifically sexual behavior, facing them today. "Teens Sing Out" is part of a Statewide "Abstinence-Only Education" public awareness campaign that will kick off this summer.

The Campaign is featured on a new Connecticut "teens-only" website: ctnow.com/teens (Take a look.)

The Judges:

Tom Galvin of the Connecticut Association of Schools, Jim Russo of L & R Production, Representatives of Connecticut Department of Public Health, and some of Connecticut's favorite DJ's will judge the entries.

The Rules:

- Only middle school age students in 5th-8th grade attending public or private school in Connecticut are eligible.
- Lyrics must be 150 words or less and must be submitted typed.

- The school, class, teacher/group leader and author of submitted entry must be written clearly in ink in upper right-hand corner of page.
- Lyrics winners will be determined by a panel of judges based on composition, content, originality, interest of subject matter, and consistency with the theme. The decisions of the judges shall be final.
- Winners will be required to sign and deliver to CT Dept. of Public Health a publicity release, permission to reprint the lyrics in various media including a new teens-only website (ctnow.com/teens) and a copyright waiver to use the lyrics or their adaptation in the Connecticut Department of Public Health Abstinence-Only Education public awareness campaign.
- This contest is void where prohibited or restricted.
- No entry fee is required.
- Entries must be postmarked no later than June 4, 2004.
- Each school may submit more than one set of lyrics, but only one per classroom.
- All entries become the property of the CT Department of Public Health and will not be acknowledged nor returned. CT Dept. of Public Health assumes no responsibility for lost or damaged entries.

Things To Do:

- Ask students to list behaviors that they think kids their age think about or sometimes do that are risky.
- Ask your students why specific behavior is ranked where it is.
- Encourage your students to visit ctnow.com/teens—Connecticut's new "teens-only" website. It features content of interest to young people, including issues like risky behavior facing our young people.

Grand Prize:

- The class or youth group that submits the 1st prize entry will star in its own professionally produced music jingle adapted from the winning lyrics.
- Winning school receives a music software library.
- Winning group/class receives a supply of CDs, DVDs and tapes.

Second Prize:

- Winning school receives a music software library.
- Winning group/class receives a supply of CDs, DVDs and tapes.

Third Prize:

- Winning school receives a music software library.
- Winning group/class receives a supply of CDs, DVDs and tapes.

Deadline: June 4, 2004

Send your classroom's or youth group's entry to: Elkinson + Sloves, Inc, "TEENS SING OUT", 784 Farmington Avenue, Farmington, CT 06032 or fax to 860-674-0896. Entries must be postmarked on or before June 4, 2004.

