This course examines the serious issue of School Based Substance Abuse and offers solutions to combat some of these problems. Students are required to spend time researching up-to-date articles on these topics, and discuss their reaction to each of their articles. I act as their facilitator, as they examine the topic and discuss their reaction with the class. We review up to 25 different articles on the topics and critique five videos that relate to the topics.

**Course Objectives:**

- To present students with a functional overview of successful strategies for dealing with School Based Substance Abuse
- To use class discussion, group projects and oral presentations to create a positive and dynamic class environment. A collaborative approach will allow students to learn from one another as well as from their instructor.
- To assign papers, projects and presentations as a means of student evaluation.
- To hold students to high accountability for all required work.

**Class #1 Introduction**

- Discuss course topics and how they affect the children that we teach.
- Topics include: Tobacco, Marijuana, Cocaine, Heroin, Alcohol, Universal Prevention in Schools, Media Influence and Children of Addiction.
• Review requirements: attendance, reaction papers, participation, final presentation and paper.

Class #2 **Tobacco**-

• The history of tobacco use.

• Nicotine Exposure, Pharmacokinetics.

• Addiction and other Physiologic Effects.

• Health Effects of Exposure to Secondhand Smoke.

• Smoking Cessation.

  *Video: Ad Libbing It*

**Class #3&4 Marijuana and Other Hallucinogens**-

• The History of Marijuana, How and why it became illegal.

• The case for Marijuana Legalization.

• Myths and facts about Marijuana.

• Marijuana Abuse.

  *Video: Reefer Madness*

**Class #5&6 Cocaine and Other Stimulants**-

• The Story of Cocaine.

• Substance abuse programs.

• Outpatient programs.

  *Video: Cocaine Cowboys*
Class #7&8 Heroin and Other Opiods-

- Opiod related disorders.
- Heroin abuse on Long Island.
- Treatments to Combat Heroin Addiction.

Video: The Panic In Needle Park

Class #9 The Influence of TV and Other Media-

- Media Portrayal of Drugs.
- The influence of Mass media on Health Behaviors of K-12 students.
- The Use of Mass Media in Substance Abuse Prevention.

Class #10 Alcohol-

- The Progression and Recovery of Alcoholism.
- Underage Drinking, Risks and Prevention.
- CHOICES Program.
- Guest speaker from BOCES Drug and Alcohol Prevention.

Class #11 Universal Prevention In Schools-

- Benefits of School Based Drug Prevention Programs.
- Disadvantages.
- Selecting Program Components and Content.
- Program Evaluations.
Video: The Meth Epidemic

Class #12 Children of Addiction-

- When Parents Receive Treatment.
- How Adults Can Support Children of Alcoholics.
- Teen Children of Addicted Parents.

Video: Finding Hope in Recovery

Class #13&14 Final Presentations-

- Students are required to thoroughly investigate one of the topics covered and give a final presentation and paper to the class.
- Hands on activities, visual and auditory stimuli and printed information to be handed out to the class are encouraged.