

L.A. youth teacher's guide

Publishing Schedule

L.A. Youth will arrive the week of May 21-25

Key to using the May-June 2007 issue:

ARTICLE and PAGE NUMBER

KEY TEACHING POINTS

<p>Connecting to the Virginia Tech tragedy p. 5 Se, who is Korean, had a reaction that was different from others in the Korean community because he was a victim in an armed robbery.</p>	<p>How did you feel about the shootings? What do you think could be done to prevent future tragedies like this?</p>
<p>Letter to an inanimate object pp. 6-7 Essay contest winners write letters to a retainer, calculus textbook and mirrors.</p>	<p>What objects drive you crazy? What could you not live without? Why do some objects cause us to feel strong emotions?</p>
<p>COVER STORY An honest grade pp. 10-11 Although he sees cheating all around him, Fred says he won't cheat because it's wrong and learning is more important than grades.</p>	<p>See lesson plan on page 2.</p>
<p>I got caught! p. 12 Christina got caught peeking at someone else's answers, but doesn't feel too bad because she feels we live in a world of cheaters.</p>	<p>Is cheating ever justified? Would you turn in someone if you knew they were cheating?</p>
<p>Cool medical job p. 13 Hands-on work and helping others makes an orthotist's job creating supportive braces rewarding.</p>	<p>What makes a job rewarding? Would you consider a medical career?</p>
<p>The X-Men saved me pp. 16-17 Reading graphic novels helped Lily escape her problems at school.</p>	<p>What books, movies or music do you connect with? Why?</p>
<p>Keep religion out of government p. 18 Although Hae Jin is morally opposed to abortion and homosexuality, she thinks abortion and same-sex marriage should be legal.</p>	<p>Do you agree with Roe v. Wade? Do you think same-sex marriage should be legal? Why or why not?</p>
<p>I'm not short, I'm space efficient pp. 20-21 At 4 feet 9, Sammi has had to accept that she'll always be short but now she embraces her unique height.</p>	<p>Are there things you don't like about yourself? How do you accept physical traits that you can't change?</p>
<p>HPV vaccine p. 22 Sammi believes girls should get the HPV vaccine to protect themselves from cervical cancer.</p>	<p>Do you think the HPV vaccine should be required by law? Why or why not?</p>
<p>Surviving 'senioritis' p. 23 From dozing off in class to watching more TV and going to shows, Mar had a bad case of senioritis.</p>	<p>Why is it important to stay motivated? What are tips for ways seniors can stay motivated?</p>
<p>An unexpected friendship pp. 24-25 Brandy has a lot of fun hanging out with her mentor, who helps Brandy with her problems, too.</p>	<p>What characteristics are important to you when forming a connection with someone? Who do you feel closest to?</p>

Is cheating the right answer?

Writing a persuasive essay on whether cheating is ever justified

A lesson plan based on the stories and interviews about cheating from the May-June 2007 issue of L.A. Youth, in which Fred Scarf writes about why he thinks cheating is wrong, Christina Quarles shares her experience getting caught and students from around Los Angeles County offer their opinions about cheating.

By Mike Fricano, Editor

Grades: 6-12

Subjects: Language arts, life skills

Suggested time allowance: 45 min.-1 hr.

Overview: In this lesson plan each student will examine his or her ideas and opinions about whether cheating is ever justified and write a persuasive essay supporting their positions.

Objectives:

Students will:

1. Define cheating.
2. Look at reasons why students cheat.
3. Examine what's gained and lost when a person cheats.

Resources and material:

- pens, paper
- copies of L.A. Youth articles about cheating (one per student)
- white board or blackboard

Activities:

1. On the board write: "Cheating," and ask students to list examples of what they consider to be cheating and write those on the board. Copying from another student during a test or stealing a test in advance are virtually universally accepted as cheating, but what about copying someone's homework or using someone else's homework to check your answers?

2. Reading. Ask students to read Fred Scarf's story "An honest grade" about why he doesn't cheat on pages 10-11 of the May-June 2007 issue of L.A. Youth and the interview with the Yale admis-

sions counselor.

3. Discussion:

Talk about the article, addressing these questions (possible answers are listed). Students should write down the answers so that they can be used as supporting arguments in their persuasive essays.

- What justifications do students give for why they cheat?

--Pressure. One student, who Fred saw cheat, wants to attend an Ivy League college. Many students are under constant and increasing pressure to earn the highest grades, especially in California where elite universities like ULCA and Berkeley get more applicants each year. To get into the best schools, you need the best grades.

--Some students have said that if everyone else is cheating, they also need to cheat just to keep up. Fred was tempted to cheat on a quiz when he saw many students around him whispering answers to one another.

--They're unprepared because of an absence. Fred asked a teacher if he could skip a quiz he didn't know about in advance, but the teacher said no. Since he was unprepared he failed. Fred said that he briefly considered cheating.

--Cheating happens in every class. Fred told a teacher that students were cheating in her class, expecting her to punish someone. Instead, she was resigned to this. In a typical school culture students don't snitch on each other, so if the teacher won't enforce the rules, who will?

- What drives students to cheat?

--You don't have to study as much. Fred studied for hours for his AP Art History exams, while a classmate who didn't, earned the same grade because he cheated.

--Better grades. Fred failed a history quiz with a 22 percent—because he missed school the day before and was unprepared—while other students in the

class cheated and passed.

--A better future? One student Fred observed cheating aspires to attend an Ivy League college. Students admitted to elite universities must have excellent grades. Even the Yale admissions counselor admitted that a Yale student who cheated "might get by." She added that ultimately those students wouldn't gain as much from their Yale experience.

- What are the downsides of cheating?

--You don't learn as much. A ninth grade teacher told Fred not to worry about grades, but about learning and understanding new things. One of Fred's classmates said that she didn't regret taking AP English even though she got a D in the class, because "at least she learned something."

--If colleges find out, it can hurt you. The Yale admissions counselor said that students must report all disciplinary actions that were taken in high school. She said that they view academic dishonesty as a "serious matter."

--Guilt. Fred ultimately did NOT cheat during the quiz he was unprepared for because he knew it was morally wrong and that he would have lost respect for himself.

4. Writing

After reading this article and the interview, write a persuasive essay explaining your views on cheating including the reasons why you think cheating is OK or why it's wrong, or something that depends on the circumstances.

Extension activity

In the age of text messaging and camera phones, the temptation to cheat is greater than ever. Ask your students to develop a code of academic integrity with specific punishments for breaking the code.



Would you like a speaker from L.A. Youth?

Editors Mike Fricano and Laura Lee speak about journalism, current events, working as a reporter, how to be a better writer and how students can get involved in L.A. Youth.

Call Mike or Laura at (323) 938-9194 or e-mail mfricano@layouth.com or llee@layouth.com.

THANKS TO TEACHERS who contributed letters to the editor and essays: Jolie Augustine, Wilson MS in Glendale; Mike Dean, Jefferson Trade Tech HS; J. Franklin, Calvary Baptist School in La Verne; Ms. Gabel, Mountain View HS in El Monte; Mrs. Ghafour, Gardena HS; Ann Hanson, Wilson HS; Mrs. Hernandez-Camacho, Huntington Park College Ready Academy HS; Keith Kesler, Wilson MS in Glendale; Ms. Kokino, University HS; Candace Lawrence, Gardena HS; Jennifer Lopez, Wilson MS; Trish Lutero, Jefferson HS; Nicole Niederdeppe, Nimitz MS in Huntington Park; S. Pangle, St. Raymond School; Tracie Porter, View Park Preparatory Accelerated Charter MS; Mrs. Thomas, Hargitt MS Academy.

Teens:
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about teens



Next Newcomer's Orientation: **Saturday, June 9, 11 a.m.-noon** at
L.A.youth at 5967 W. Third Street Suite 301, L.A. 90036

(between Fairfax and La Brea)

Call Amanda, Laura or Mike at (323) 938-9194



L.A. youth SUMMER WORKSHOP

Sign up for the L.A. Youth summer writing workshop, an intensive six-week experience during which you will write an article that will be published in L.A. Youth, as well as conduct interviews and do research. You will complete your story while working one-on-one with a professional adult L.A. Youth editor.

To apply, you must be a Los Angeles County teen aged 15-18 attending high school in the area. No journalism experience is required, but you must have an interest in writing for L.A. Youth to participate. The workshop is unpaid. Public high school students will be given preference. Apply early, because a limited number of spaces are available.

Expectations:

- In this workshop, you are expected to meet weekly deadlines involving reading and writing, and attend field trips. Students who do not meet the deadlines will be asked to leave the writing workshop and encouraged to remain involved with L.A. Youth in some other way.

- You are expected to generate material for the September issue of L.A. Youth.

- You must attend group meetings at the L.A. Youth office every Wednesday from 2 to 5 p.m. from July 11 to August 15. You also must arrange weekly two-hour individual meetings with your editor. The first group meeting will be held at 2 p.m. on Wednesday, July 11, 2007.

How to apply:

Submit this application form with a **one-page writing sample** about one of your interests, hobbies or activities, as well as the **\$75 application fee**. Scholarships available. Tips for the writing sample: submit one of your best school essays or write an original one-page statement that tells us something about you and gives us a sense of your writing style. After you submit your application, we'll call you for a short **interview** before you are accepted into the workshop. To prepare for the workshop, we strongly encourage you to read past issues of L.A. Youth on our Web site. Go to www.layouth.com and click on "Archives."

The application deadline is **Friday, June 8, 2007.**

Application for L.A. Youth summer writing workshop

NAME _____

ADDRESS _____

CITY _____

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HOME PHONE _____

E-MAIL ADDRESS _____

SCHOOL _____

GRADE YOU WILL ENTER IN SEPTEMBER _____

DATE OF BIRTH _____ - _____ - _____



Send application with \$75 fee and writing sample to:

L.A. Youth
5967 W. 3rd St. Ste. 301
Los Angeles CA 90036