

You are the Parent

As we have our discussion today, I would like you all to assume the role of being parents of teenagers. I am going to ask you some rather personal questions and I would like you to respond verbally to the class if you feel comfortable doing so. As I read the statements, I would like you to write down your first response in the space provided in your packet.

1. Your daughter comes home from a date and is upset. When you ask her what is wrong, she explains that her date took her to a party where he got drunk. She was very frightened as he drove her home. How would that make you, as a parent, feel?
2. Your son comes home from a date and confides in you that his date seduced him. How would you feel? What would you do?
3. It's 11:45 p.m. Your daughter runs in the door, crying. After you calm her down, she tells you that her date raped her. How would you feel? What would you do?
4. Your daughter comes into your room to talk to you late one night and says, "Mom, Dad, I've been waiting for the right time to tell you this, but there just doesn't seem to be a right time. I think I'm pregnant." How would you feel? What would you do?
5. A car full of teens pulls up in front of your house and honks the horn for your son/daughter. Just as he/she is leaving the house, you see beer cans in the rear window of the car. What will you do?
6. Your son is really infatuated with a girl at school. Every time you have seen this girl she has been wearing revealing clothing. Does this concern you?

Have the class identify situations in which they have been uncomfortable and discuss ways to deal with these situations.

Discussion:

1. Can parents prevent any of these things from happening? (Probably not. They can't make their teenagers' choices for them, but they can teach them how to make wise choices.)
2. What can parents do to make these kinds of things less likely to happen to their children? (Help their children set specific dating rules and guidelines.)