

Teen Assault Prevention Program
835 Piner Road
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To Whom It May Concern:

It is difficult to find the words to express my appreciation for the utterly appropriate, authentic, and important information the Teen Assault Prevention Program presenters provide for my Living Skills classes, time after time! My one-semester class is a mandatory-for-graduation requirement for all Sonoma Valley High School students. The curriculum covers a multitude of subjects that relate to everyday occurrences that every young adult will experience at one time or another in their lifetime (e.g., credit debt, successful communication, child abuse, domestic violence prevention, STD/HIV prevention, relationship information, career planning, and so on). I have been inviting the TAPP speakers to my classroom for the past 6 years.

Regardless of who the TAPP presenters are, they have been consistently well-trained to speak at the level of 14-17 year old comprehension and can be counted on to maintain the highest degree of dignity, and respectability, careful to never blame but always to instruct through example. Without them, I'm afraid the impact would be that of "just another classroom lesson".

Date rape affects our campus culture profoundly, and without the memorable TAPP exposure, I honestly believe that the condition would be much worse. The speakers provide role-plays, real-life examples, student participation, and the voice of experience in a way that is impossible for me to ever duplicate. My only regret is that there is not more support for this extremely important social program. In a time when so many of my students have little to no parental instruction or guidance, the need for straight-talk from experts/professionals grows more urgent with each passing year. Unfortunately, due to decreased funding, it has become necessary for me to book the speakers 3-4 months in advance, in order to assure their presence; two semesters ago I was unable to book them for even one presentation because all of their available dates were taken! That meant that 360 students went without experiencing the TAPP presentation.

We adults walk around shaking our heads, wondering why so many of our youth, *our future adults*, are so poorly informed, violent, and uneducated as to how to function in a relationship. When such a program as TAPP is available, we should all be clamoring, not only for its maintenance, but for its **growth**.

Sincerely,
Sandra Hummell, Teacher, R.N.