



LAKE COUNTY NARCOTICS AGENCY

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P.L.U.S.² Parent's Guide Lesson 1 Introduction to P.L.U.S.²

This lesson introduces your child's P.L.U.S.² (pronounced *PLUS Squared*) Officer to the class and helps establish an overview of the P.L.U.S.² lessons. The officer acquaints him/herself with the students and tells the class a little about him/herself and his/her career.

Survey Form

The students are given a survey to complete during the first class. The students are told:

1. No names – this is an anonymous survey (no one knows who answered what).
2. Be honest – it's important information for yourself and your friends so you need to be honest.
3. The data – the results will be shared during our following classes.

The survey asks the students *how many 7th graders they think have ever tried, used, or are currently using drugs (several are listed)*. The survey also asks *have you ever tried, used, or currently use drugs (again several are listed)*. From the results of the survey the officers will facilitate discussions about drug use based in what the students perceive to be the *norm* verse the *actual or real* use rate.

FYI

1. As with all of our P.L.U.S. programs **parent involvement in our 7th grade P.L.U.S.² program through the homework assignments and discussions with your child is an important part of the program.**
2. Your child will be asked to find and write about information on certain drugs. We will stress the importance of using *credible resources* for these papers and that a person's opinion does not make it a *credible resource*. Many InterNet resource sites will be offered by the P.L.U.S. Officer as places to find such information. Just because it's posted on the web doesn't make it credible. If your child does not have access to the InterNet the information is available at the library.
3. **If a student misses a P.L.U.S.² class it is up to the student to go to the newly designed P.L.U.S. web site (see bottom section of letter). It is not up to the teacher or the P.L.U.S.² officer to make certain the student is caught up and prepared for the next class.** Our goal is for the students to become more responsible for his/her own growth and development.

4. **Certification requirements from P.L.U.S.².** In order for students to graduate from P.L.U.S.² it will be necessary to complete homework assignments. A student failing to complete 2 or more homework assignments will not be eligible to receive a certificate of completion. In addition to the required homework each student is required to write a final short 3 paragraph paper about what motivates them to stay away from drugs as well as plans to remain drug free in the future.

Introduction Letter

The introduction letter your child brought home is discussed in class. We will be happy to provide a *Parent's Night* program if parents want it. If you would attend a *Parent's Night* program at your school please indicate this on the Introduction Letter. *Parents' Night* is an evening program developed to speak with you (parents) about what is being taught your children during P.L.U.S.². We will discuss the outcome of the student survey and talk about current trends in adolescent drug use including the group of drugs we all know as Prescription Drugs. If you attended your child's 5th grade P.L.U.S. *Parent's Night*, then you have an idea of what to expect; HOWEVER, the 7th grade Parent's Night is not the same. We will provide a lot of information on synthetic drugs like "SPICE" and MDPV, "Bath Salts". We have always had great response from parents who have attended the *Parent's Night* programs offered by the Lake County Narcotics Agency and we are certain you will find it time well spent.

Effects of Alcohol on Youth in Our Society

Most P.L.U.S.² homework lays the groundwork for the next lesson by allowing students the opportunity to talk with their parents and gain background information to prepare them for the upcoming conversation in class. We are aware that alcohol can have devastating effects when abused and that the use of alcohol under the age of 21 is illegal in the United States. The dangers of underage alcohol use are the focus of this week's homework and Week #2 in P.L.U.S.² What are the risks when youth drink? What problems can alcohol cause in the lives of those who are under 21?

Student/Parent Homework this week:

We ask that you discuss the **Effects of Alcohol on Youth** homework with your son/daughter. Feel free to have your child include some of your observations on the worksheet. Online resources are listed to assist as needed in answering the questions.

Please sign and have your child return the **Introduction Letter** your child is bringing home this week from P.L.U.S.².

P.L.U.S. Web Site: www.lakecountyohio.gov/lcna/

We have spent a great deal of time to develop a web site as a resource for both parents and students. The web site has *homework assignments* and *Parent's Guides* available. Students no longer have the excuse "I forgot to take my homework home". To access the assignments and Parent's Guides online, students will need the P.L.U.S. username and password given to them during the first class.

Your login (*top right-hand corner*) to the P.L.U.S. webpage will be:

Username: _____ Password: _____

This site is constantly a work in progress so if something is not working or you have suggestions of things to add please feel free to contact Officer Willis at the Lake County Narcotics Agency, 440-350-3302. We continually add new drug information and community events so check back often.

Dedicated to Protecting a Great Way of Life