

“In Your Own Words” Competition for High School Journalists



FIRST PLACE prizes, awarded to winning students' schools, are a choice of:

- iMac desktop (21.5", 2.7GH) **AND** an iPad (16GB) **OR**
- Adobe Creative Suites (CS5) Premium Package

HONORABLE MENTION prizes, awarded to winning students' schools, are a choice of:

- Two iPads (16GB) **OR**
- A Nikon D5100 16.2MP CMOS Digital SLR Camera with zoom lens

ALL PARTICIPATING STUDENTS WILL BE ENTERED IN A DRAWING TO WIN AN iPad (16GB) FOR THEIR OWN USE.

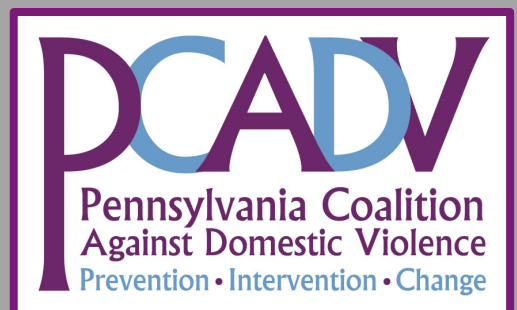
The Pennsylvania Coalition Against Domestic Violence invites high school journalists across the state to write an informative article for their school newspaper or produce a short video or public service announcement for their school's digital media outlet on the subject of dating violence.

The article or video must run at their school during National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month in February 2012 and then be submitted to PCADV by March 15, 2012, for judging.

First place and honorable mention prizes will be awarded in May to the winning students' schools in two categories – print and digital journalism.

Visit www.pcadv.org or call 800-932-4632, ext. 209, for more information.

PCADV
3605 Vartan Way
Suite 101
Harrisburg, PA 17110



Rules for “In Your Own Words” Competition for High School Journalists

Eligibility: Any student journalist attending high school in Pennsylvania.

Submission Criteria: Entries must be an article (or series of articles) written for the school newspaper or a short video or public service announcement appearing on a school media outlet (website, closed circuit broadcast news, etc.) on the subject of teen dating violence.

Entries may be submitted by an individual student or by a team of students who worked together.

The entry must be published or aired at the student’s school some time during February 2012 (National Teen Dating Violence Awareness Month). A faculty advisor or administrator must certify to this.

Deadline: Electronic submission to eml@pcadv.org by March 15, 2012.

Judging Criteria: Entries will be judged on accuracy and relevance of content, quality of presentation and adherence to journalistic standards. Judges will include professional journalists and PCADV staff.

Prizes: A first place and an honorable mention prize will be awarded to the winning students’ schools in two categories – newspaper and digital journalism. PCADV will announce the winners to the schools and their local media and on PCADV’s web site in May 2012.

The *first-place prizes* will be a choice of:

- iMac desktop (21.5”, 2.7GH) **AND** an iPad (16GB) **OR**
- Adobe Creative Suites (CS5) Premium Package

The *honorable mention prizes* will be a choice of:

- Two iPads (16GB) **OR**
- A Nikon D5100 16.2MP CMOS Digital SLR Camera with zoom lens

All participating students will be entered into a drawing to win one iPad (16GB) for their own use.

Questions? Call PCADV at 800-932-4632, ext. 209.

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Background on Teen Dating Violence

What is dating violence?

Dating violence is an abusive behavior, or pattern of abusive behaviors, used to exert power and control over a dating partner. It can include physical, sexual, emotional and verbal abuse. Generally, the violence becomes more dangerous over time.

How prevalent is dating violence?

(from www.loveisrespect.org)

- Nearly 1.5 million high school students nationwide experience physical abuse from a dating partner in a year.
- One in 10 high school students has been hit, slapped or physically hurt by a boyfriend or girlfriend.
- Twenty-five percent of high school girls have been victims of abuse.

What does dating violence look like?

(from www.jwi.org/Page.aspx?pid=372)

An abusive boyfriend/girlfriend may:

- Insult, belittle or humiliate their partner in public
- Tell their partner how to dress
- Require their partner to constantly check in
- Keep their partner from participating in activities
- Force their partner to be with them all the time
- Coerce their partner into sexual activity
- Physically harm their partner

Someone being abused may:

- Stop participating in things they used to enjoy
- Worry about making their partner angry
- Withdraw and become isolated
- Have unexplained injuries
- Lose a lot of weight
- Start to do poorly in school

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Background on Teen Dating Violence

What are warning signs of abuse?

(from www.breakthecycle.org/dating-violence-101)

- Checking your cell phone or email without your permission
- Constant put-downs
- Extreme jealousy or insecurity
- Explosive temper
- Financial control
- Isolating you from family or friends
- Mood swings
- Physically hurting you in any way
- Possessiveness
- Telling you what to do

What does a healthy relationship look like?

(from www.jwi.org/Page.aspx?pid=3)

In a healthy relationship you:

- Feel good about yourself
- Are comfortable speaking your mind
- Feel a strong sense of friendship and trust
- Are treated as an equal
- Can negotiate and communicate honestly
- Feel strong – both on your own and as a partner

What’s the new teen dating violence law in Pennsylvania?

A state law, enacted in 2010, allows schools to develop a policy on dating violence. The Pennsylvania Department of Education has developed a model policy to assist school districts in developing their own policies on dating violence prevention, reporting and response. Schools also can incorporate teen dating violence information into the annual health curriculum for students in grades 9-12. Check to see if your school has adopted a policy and included teen dating violence information in the curriculum. Contact PCADV’s legal department at 888-235-3425 for more information on the law and model policy.

Some more background resources for your story:

www.thesafespace.org
www.loveisnotabuse.com
www.teendvmonth.org
www.theredflagcampaign.org
www.jwi.org

www.breakthecycle.org
www.loveisrespect.org
www.pcadv.org

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How to Protect the Safety of Your Sources

CAUTION

If you interview classmates or friends who are, or were, in abusive relationships, their safety and privacy is of paramount importance.

Please follow these precautions:

- ✗ **DON'T** print or air anything that can jeopardize the safety of your source or anyone else.
- ✗ **DON'T** publish the name of your source or their abuser.
- ✗ **DON'T** gossip about your source's situation. This is an egregious violation of your source's trust and journalistic ethics.
- ✗ **DO** change all information or details that could identify either the source or their abuser.
- ✗ **DON'T** pressure for information. Discussing dating abuse is not easy. This is your source's story to tell. If they feel comfortable and safe, they will talk about the abuse. Be sensitive.
- ✓ **DO** encourage them to tell a parent or other trusted adult.
- ✓ **DO** offer them dating abuse hotlines where they can obtain free and confidential help.

National Dating Abuse Helpline: 866-331-9474//866-331-8453 (TTY)

Text Hotline: text “loveis” to 77054

Their Local Program: local program hotlines can be found on the PCADV website (www.pcadv.org)

Chat: www.loveisrespect.org has a “Live Chat” feature accessible from the website.