Even Rock Stars "Gonna" Need School

Goal: To debunk students' unrealistic beliefs that they can make money by selling drugs, joining a gang, marrying a wealthy person, etc. and thus avoid needing or using an education.

Materials: Marker board, markers, one copy for each student of "Sooner or Later, Will They Never Really Need School?", pens.

1. ▲ Inform the students that they will be examining if everyone really needs an education. Ask the students to identify explanations youth could offer as why they will not need school and list their answers on the board. Elicit answers such as drug dealing, becoming a rock or sports star, family support, relying only on government assistance, and marrying a wealthy spouse. Allow the students to discuss why these circumstances could appear to eliminate the need for having and using an education.

2. ▲ Distribute the copies of "Sooner or Later, Will They Really Never Need School?" and review one item at a time with the class.

▲ Ask the students to formulate the "Top Ten Ways the Rock Star Will Wish S/He Had an Education", and repeat for the model, gang member or other individuals as needed. Elicit responses such as the "the rock star loses his hearing" or "the wealthy man divorces the wife".

3. ▲ Ask the students to formulate a list of adult tasks that virtually everyone may ultimately face. These tasks will require education and can include reading contracts, writing a will, grocery shopping, and paying taxes. Write the students' responses on the board, then ask the class members to identify which of these tasks will require education. Aid the students to determine that people who lack a complete education, will often be unable to successfully manage these adult tasks.

4. ▲ Ask students to identify ways to avoid the tasks listed on the board, such as hiring an accountant to prepare taxes. Assist the class members to cite the serious problems that could result. For example, because the person is not knowledgeable in math and taxes, the accountant steals a portion of the income or tax payment. Assist the class to conclude that education is vital for everyone sooner or later.

5. ▲ Review the major points of this lesson:
   • Life is full of surprises that you may need education to manage.
   • To be in charge of your life, you must have enough education to understand what is going on around you.
   • Successfully managing adult tasks and responsibilities requires a complete education. Although some tasks can be delegated, you will need enough education to oversee and evaluate how the work is being conducted.