## Lesson Title

# **AIDS Essay**

#### **Overview**

Students will write an extemporaneous essay on a specified topic related to AIDS.

#### **Duration**

One hour in class.

In preparation for this assignment, students should spend 2-5 hours outside of class.

# **Objectives**

- 1) Analyze the effects of AIDS and HIV infection.
- 2) Evaluate methods of infection control.

### Materials

Internet access

HOSA Event Guidelines – <u>Extemporaneous Writing</u> Lined paper or "blue books"

# Instructional Input

- 1) Assign the project approximately one week before the essay is to be written in class.
- Explain to the class that on (give date) they will be writing an extemporaneous essay on the topic of AIDS. The teacher will provide a specific topic that relates to AIDS on the day of the essay.
- Students should read and study everything they can get their hands on related to the topic of AIDS, ARC, and HIV. Include specific reading (a section in the course text) and encourage extra research on the Internet.
- 4) On the day of the essay, provide students with a secret topic and follow the guidelines for the Extemporaneous Writing event. Sample topic:
  - AIDS Hits Home

How would you feel if someone you care about is diagnosed with AIDS? What would you be concerned about? What would you tell friends/family about the expected treatment and prognosis? What would you tell others about their fears of contracting the virus?

5) Use the event rating sheet to grade the essays.

### Assessment

Extemporaneous Writing Rating Sheet (Rubric)
Use the rating sheet to evaluate the student's essay.

# Accountability Criteria

(National Health Care Skill Standards)

- 1.2 Diseases and Disorders
- 2.2 Written Communication Skills
- 7.1 Infection Control
- 7.2 Personal Safety
- 9.1 Healthy Behaviors
- 11.1 Communication Technology

# Vocabulary

- AIDS Acquired Immunodeficiency Syndrome
- ARC AIDS-Related Complex
- ELISA Enzyme-linked immunosorbent assay
- HIV Human Immunodeficiency virus
- Immunosuppression
- Kaposi's sarcoma
- Opportunistic infections
- Standard precautions
- Western blot

### Notes to the Teacher

- Ask "How's it going?" Spend about 5 minutes during each class period before the actual essay in assessing progress. Encourage students who find good articles on the web to print out a copy and share what they find with classmates. (You will be surprised at how willing students are to share the great information they have found.) Also, this strategy helps students who do NOT have Internet access at home.
- Be sure students know that the purpose of writing the essay in an extemporaneous method is to evaluate what they **think** and have learned about AIDS.
- It is recommended this assignment NOT be given on a test day.
- A most outstanding essay could be submitted to a local newspaper, school newspaper, or HOSA newsletter for publication.
- It is recommended that the teacher write his/her own specific topic for the essay that requires the student to think about this disorder and apply his/her understanding of the disease.

#### Integrated Skills









### **Author**

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