



## YOUTH AID PANELS OF BUCKS COUNTY



### **Youth Aid Panel Writing Assignment Instructions and Topics**

All writing assignments must be typed, doubled-spaced, size 12, Calibri or Times New Roman font. Your paper must be at least 500 words, unless your panel specifies a different length. Do not use Wikipedia, unreliable blogs, etc... **DO NOT PLAGARIZE!** Your paper will be screened for plagiarism, which is using someone else's ideas without giving them credit. Your paper should not resemble an assignment submitted by a previous or concurrent youth aid client. Include a reference page and cite your references using the following format:

Author or Organization, (date of publication, or if none, use "n.d."). *Title*. Retrieved from: <http://www.webpage.com>

Due Date: \_\_\_\_\_

Submit the Paper to (email address or mailing address):

---

---



# YOUTH AID PANELS OF BUCKS COUNTY



## Suggested Resources

Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration (SAMSHA), Drug and Alcohol Educational Videos, [https://www.youtube.com/results?search\\_query=samsha](https://www.youtube.com/results?search_query=samsha)

National Institute on Drug Abuse, <https://www.drugabuse.gov/>

Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission,  
<http://www.buckscounty.org/LivingAndWorking/drugandalcoholcommission>

2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey for Bucks County - Info on Drug and Alcohol Use, Antisocial Behavior, Schools, and Families in Bucks County, PA.  
<http://bucksyouthaid.org/youth-aid-documents-and-links.html> (Click on “Bucks County Youth Survey”).

Teens and Decision Making – What Brain Science Reveals.  
[http://headsup.scholastic.com/sites/default/files/block/images/nida6\\_ins4\\_student\\_mag.pdf](http://headsup.scholastic.com/sites/default/files/block/images/nida6_ins4_student_mag.pdf)

Teen Shoplifting, <http://kidshealth.org/en/teens/shoplifting.html#>

National Association of Shoplifting Prevention,  
<http://www.shopliftingprevention.org/what-we-do/learning-resource-center/statistics/>

Common Sense Media: Sexting Prevention,  
[https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/uploads/landing\\_pages/sexting\\_handbook\\_ce\\_1020\\_1.pdf](https://www.common sense media.org/sites/default/files/uploads/landing_pages/sexting_handbook_ce_1020_1.pdf)

Pennsylvania Sexting Law:  
<http://www.legis.state.pa.us/cfdocs/legis/LI/consCheck.cfm?txtType=HTM&ttl=18&div=0&chpt=63&sctn=21&subsctn=0>

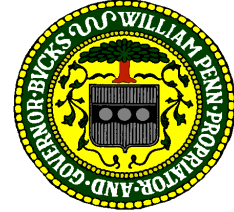
Center for Missing and Exploited Children: “Your Photo’s Fate,”  
<http://www.netmartz.org/RealLifeStories/YourPhotoFate>

NPR, Teen Opiate Recovery, <http://www.npr.org/sections/health-shots/2016/01/15/463046372/for-teenagers-adult-sized-opioid-addiction-treatment-doesnt-fit>

American College of Pediatricians – Marijuana, <https://www.acped.org/marijuana-use-detrimental-to-youth>



## YOUTH AID PANELS OF BUCKS COUNTY



### Writing Assignment Topics

- 1) Discuss the science behind **teen decision making**. Are teens prone to making poor decisions? What does the National Institute on Drug Abuse say about the link between teen brain development and drug use? List some proven methods of making good decisions and give examples of when these methods can be used.
- 2) Review a section of the **2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey for Bucks County** (Bucks County PAYS). What trends do you see? What programs are helping? What could be implemented to help? Compare your selected section of the Bucks County PAYS to one of the other websites.
- 3) Look at the two links on **shoplifting**. Why do teens shoplift? Discuss some shoplifting statistics. What is a civil recovery? Find information on other webpages about shoplifting databases. What are they? How are they used? Who is victimized by shoplifting? Who was victimized by your offense? How were they victimized?
- 4) Use resource #1 above. On YouTube, watch the “**SAMSHA Addition Series**.” Take notes and write about what you learned. Discuss the difference between use, abuse, and addiction. Use a specific drug or alcohol and give examples of use, abuse, and addiction. What are specific characteristics of use? Of abuse? Of addiction?
- 5) Link to the Bucks County Drug and Alcohol Commission above. **What drug and alcohol services are available to Bucks County residents?** Describe the details of Act 53. What are medication drop boxes and where is the closest one to you? Compare these services in Bucks County to the 2015 Pennsylvania Youth Survey for Bucks County. What trends in the survey are being addressed by the county’s drug and alcohol services?
- 6) Read the **Sexting** handbook provided by Common Sense Media. Describe the consequences of sexting. If you have already engaged in sexting, what steps can be taken to control the damage? What resources/people can help? Focus on revenge porn – what section of the Pennsylvania sexting law would this fall under (be specific!)? What are the legal consequences of “revenge porn” in Pennsylvania? Summarize your understanding of Pennsylvania’s sexting law. If you receive an explicit image of a classmate, do you need to delete it? If so, how soon should it be erased? Refer to the Pennsylvania sexting law – what does the law say about receiving an image? Watch “Your Photo’s Fate” and read the parent and teen tip sheets listed below the video. Summarize the video and talk about how you and your parents can work together to prevent sexting.



## YOUTH AID PANELS OF BUCKS COUNTY



- 7) Read the NPR article on **teen opiate addiction**. What programs work for addicted teens? What treatment strategies does the article support? What doesn't work? Do some research on your own and discuss why opiate addiction has become such a problem. What is Pennsylvania Act 53? What agencies can help with opiate addiction in Bucks County?
  
- 8) Do some of your own research on recent **marijuana trends**. What do adults think of marijuana use now? What do teens think? Research Pennsylvania's medical marijuana law that was passed in 2016. What did the law change? What is legal now? Offer your opinion – will marijuana ever be legal for recreational use in PA for adults? For teens? What could be the consequences of keeping recreational marijuana illegal? Of making it legal? What could be the benefits? Look at some of the problems and benefits of legalization in other states. Feel free to use the American College of Pediatricians link above to help with some of your answers.
  
- 9) Topic to be assigned by panel:

---

---

---

---