FYI Youth

Jan 23, 2002
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<th>Time</th>
<th>Activity</th>
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<td>9:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Meeting</strong></td>
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<tr>
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<td>Meeting Objective</td>
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<tr>
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<td>Identify the Current Level of Youth Involvement in the Community</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Identify, Discuss and Prioritize Youth Issues in This Community</td>
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<td>9:10 AM</td>
<td><strong>Introduction to the Group Decision Center (Categorizer)</strong></td>
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<td>What is the GDC?</td>
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<td>Practice Exercise</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Survey (Survey)</strong></td>
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<td>Identify, discuss and prioritize Teen Issues.</td>
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<td><strong>Youth Issues (Vote)</strong></td>
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<td>10:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>Key Needs and Where To Go (Categorizer)</strong></td>
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<td><strong>Current Level of Youth Involvement (Categorizer)</strong></td>
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<td>11:00 AM</td>
<td><strong>GDC Evaluation (Survey)</strong></td>
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Youth Survey (Survey)

Survey Results

1. What is your gender?

A) Ballot

   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose one.
   Number of Choices: 2

B) Results Spread

   Statistics
   Total 2.00
   N 34

Table Sorted By Total

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Results Chart (1. What is your gender?)
2. Age

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Choose one.

Number of Choices: 7

B) Results Spread

Statistics

Total 5.00

N 34

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Results Chart (2. Age)
3. Highest grade completed

A) Ballot: Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass) Number of Choices: 11

B) Results Spread

**Statistics**

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Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

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<td>Two Year - 2 Year College</td>
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<tr>
<td>Other - Please Identify</td>
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Results Chart (3. Highest grade completed)
4. What is your ethnic background?

A) Ballot
   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose all that apply
   Number of Choices: 6

B) Results Spread

Statistics
   Total 4.00
   N 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses
   1. Hispanic, Irish

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<td>Native American</td>
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<td>Hispanic</td>
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Results Chart (4. What is your ethnic background?)
5. Are your resident parent/s or guardian/s:

A) Ballot
   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose all that apply
   Number of Choices: 5

B) Results Spread

Statistics
   Total: 4.00
   N: 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses
   1. Been separated since I was little, Have not seen them in a couple of years

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<td>Other - Please Explain</td>
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<tr>
<td>Widowed</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

Results Chart (5. Are your resident parent/s or guardian/s:)

Printed: 04-17-02
6. Do you have a job or volunteer in the community?

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose up to two.
Number of Choices: 4

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total  4.00
N      34

Table Sorted By Total

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<tr>
<td>Yes, I have a part time job</td>
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<tr>
<td>No, I do not have a job</td>
<td>12</td>
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<tr>
<td>No, I do not volunteer</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
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</table>

Results Chart (6. Do you have a job or volunteer in the community?)
7. What type of extra-curricular activities do/did you participate in?

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose all that apply
Number of Choices: 7

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total 7.00
N 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

1. Student Council, Chamber Orchestra, Fargo Moorhead Youth Symphony
teach private violin lessons, Class President, Church Activities (Junior Board of Directors)
Fargo Moorhead Chamber of Commerce Youth Leadership
2. i am in dance (Jazz)

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<td>Speech/Theatre</td>
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<td>Student Government</td>
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<td>Newspaper</td>
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Results Chart (7. What type of extra-curricular activities do/did...)

Printed: 04-17-02
8. Importance of Speech/Theatre in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

Total 258
Mean 7.59
Mode 8
High 10
Low 2
STD 1.81
N 34

Results Chart (8. Importance of Speech/Theatre in community.)
9. Importance of music in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

- Total: 283
- Mean: 8.32
- Mode: 8
- High: 10
- Low: 5
- STD: 1.30
- N: 34

Results Chart (9. Importance of music in community.)
10. Importance of student government in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Results Chart (10. Importance of student government in community.)
11. Importance of newspaper in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Results Chart (11. Importance of newspaper in community.)
12. Importance of sports in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

Total: 268
Mean: 7.88
Mode: 8
High: 10
Low: 2
STD: 1.68
N: 34

Results Chart (12. Importance of sports in community.)
13. Importance of clubs/organizations in community.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Results Chart (13. Importance of clubs/organizations in community.)

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

- Total: 313
- Mean: 9.21
- Mode: 10
- High: 10
- Low: 6
- STD: 1.07
- N: 34

Results Chart (14. Importance of technology in community.)
15. Do you have internet access?

A) Ballot

Method: Yes/No (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

Yes% 100.00
No% 0.00
N 34
n 34

Results Chart (15. Do you have internet access?)
16. If you do where?
   A) Ballot
      Method: Open-Ended (allow bypass)
      Descriptions: Click in the box to enter text.
   B) Text Responses
      Total Number of Respondents (N): 34
      Number of responses to this question (n): 34
      1. at home and school (24)
      2. at home (7)
      3. AOL
      4. School
      5. At home and at MSUM

17. How often do you use the internet?
   A) Ballot
      Method: Open-Ended (allow bypass)
      Options: Allow Bypass
      Maximum Number of Characters: [12288]
      Descriptions: Click in the box to enter text.
   B) Text Responses
      Total Number of Respondents (N): 34
      Number of responses to this question (n): 34
      1. everyday (9)
      2. twice a week for 30 minutes to an hour
      3. every night for about an hour
      4. usually every night I use it for Instant Messenger and about once or twice a week I use it for homework
      5. AT LEAST ONE TIME A DAY (6)
      6. About once a week (4)
      7. EVERY ONCE IN A WHILE FOR HOMEWORK
      8. whenever i have free time and can get on
      9. one to two times a week
      10. ONCE A MONTH IF THAT
      11. everyday for research and other things
      12. I use it at least two hours a day.
      13. a couple times a week (3)
      14. Around 4-5 hours a week
      15. one or two times a day
      16. almost every day
18. What is your school?

A) Ballot
   Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
   Descriptions: Choose one.
   Number of Choices: 11

B) Results Spread
   Statistics
   Total 3.00
   N 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

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Results Chart (18. What is your school?)
19. How many cliques are in your school and/or community?

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Choose one.

Number of Choices: 4

B) Results Spread

Statistics

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Table Sorted By Total

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<td>several</td>
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Results Chart (19. How many cliques are in your school and/or...
20. What types of cliques are in your school and/or community?

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)

Descriptions: Choose all that apply

Number of Choices: 8

B) Results Spread

Statistics

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<tr>
<th>Total</th>
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N 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

1. Friends usually just hang out with friends, it's not based on what activities you're in.
2. I'm not in a clique. I do all kinds of things
3. I hang out with all types of people, not just one particular group. I am friends with all groups.
4. Everyone at my school, park christian, are friends with everyone else. Everyone is included in anything they want to be included in. There aren't any outsiders.
5. The main clique exists between those who participate being apart from those who do not participate.
6. Smart kids, non users
7. There are groups with several of these types in them, too. It's not just athletes that hang out or outsiders, there's also a variety within one group too
8. People on drugs!
9. Use drugs or alchol

<table>
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<tr>
<td>Musicians/Band</td>
<td>17</td>
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<tr>
<td>Cheerleaders/Drill Team</td>
<td>12</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Techies</td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Other - Please Describe</td>
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</table>
Results Chart (20. What types of cliques are in your school and/or...)

- Athletes: 28.00
- Partiers: 26.00
- "Outsiders": 22.00
- Speech/Drama: 19.00
- Musicians/Band: 17.00
- Cheerleaders/Drill T: 12.00
- Techies: 11.00
- Other - Please Describe: 9.00
21. Do you have access to alcohol?

A) Ballot
   Method: Yes/No
   Options: Allow Bypass
   Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>12</td>
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</table>

Statistics

- Yes\% 64.71
- No\% 35.29
- N 34
- n 34

Results Chart (21. Do you have access to alcohol?)
22. Do you have access to drugs?

A) Ballot

Method: Yes/No
Options: Allow Bypass
Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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<tr>
<td>N</td>
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Statistics

| Yes%   | 55.88 |
| No%    | 44.12 |
| N      | 34    |
| n      | 34    |

Results Chart (22. Do you have access to drugs?)
23. Is there community acceptance of teenage drinking?

A) Ballot
- Method: Yes/No
- Options: Allow Bypass
- Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

<table>
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<tr>
<td>N</td>
<td>21</td>
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Statistics
- Yes% 38.24
- No% 61.76
- N 34
- n 34

Results Chart (23. Is there community acceptance of teenage...)
24. Do your parents accept teenage drinking?

A) Ballot
   Method: Yes/No
   Options: Allow Bypass
   Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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<td>N</td>
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Statistics

Yes% 5.88
No% 94.12

Results Chart (24. Do your parents accept teenage drinking?)
25. Is there community acceptance of teenage drug use?

A) Ballot
   Method: Yes/No
   Options: Allow Bypass
   Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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<td>N</td>
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Statistics
Yes% 11.76
No% 88.24
N 34
n 34

Results Chart (25. Is there community acceptance of teenage drug...)
26. Do your parents accept teenage drug use?

A) Ballot

Method: Yes/No
Options: Allow Bypass
Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

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<td>n</td>
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Results Chart (26. Do your parents accept teenage drug use?)
27. Would you say that your community has a problem with violence?

A) Ballot
   Method: Yes/No
   Options: Allow Bypass
   Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics

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<td>34</td>
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<td>n</td>
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Results Chart (27. Would you say that your community has a problem...)
28. If yes, what type?

A) Ballot

Method: Multiple Selection (allow bypass)
Descriptions: Choose all that apply
Number of Choices: 3

B) Results Spread

Statistics
Total 3.00
N 34

Table Sorted By Total

C) Text Responses

1. I was at Ben Franklin Junior High one day visiting and they were having problems with fights. The principal had said that there had already been 3 fights earlier that day. I don't know if that was just a particularly bad day or if it really is a problem at the junior high level.

2. Violence between races or ethnic backgrounds

3. Racially motivated

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Results Chart (28. If yes, what type?)
29. Your level of satisfaction with your opportunities to be involved in community decision.

A) Ballot
   Method: 10-Point Scale
   Options: Allow Bypass
   Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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Statistics
- Total: 212
- Mean: 6.24
- Mode: 4
- High: 9
- Low: 4
- STD: 1.69
- N: 34

Results Chart (29. Your level of satisfaction with your...
30. Would you say that teenage pregnancy is a problem in your town?

A) Ballot
Method: Yes/No
Options: Allow Bypass
Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
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Statistics
Yes% 58.82
No% 41.18
N 34
n 34

Results Chart (30. Would you say that teenage pregnancy is a problem...)

N 41.2%
Y 58.8%
31. Does your community provide activities geared towards teenagers?

A) Ballot

Method: Yes/No
Options: Allow Bypass
Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

<table>
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Statistics

Yes% 47.06
No% 52.94
N 34
n 34

Results Chart (31. Does your community provide activities geared...
32. Does your community have a teen council or other organized method to communicate with teens?

A) Ballot
- Method: Yes/No
- Options: Allow Bypass
- Descriptions: Select either Yes or No.

B) Results Spread

<table>
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<td>N</td>
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Statistics
- Yes% 32.35
- No% 67.65
- N 34
- n 34

Results Chart (32. Does your community have a teen council or other...)
33. This community allows youth involvement in decision making?

A) Ballot

- Method: 10-Point Scale
- Options: Allow Bypass
- Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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**Statistics**

- Total: 169
- Mean: 4.97
- Mode: 6
- High: 7
- Low: 1
- STD: 1.70
- N: 34

Results Chart (33. This community allows youth involvement in...
34. This community encourages supports youth involvement in decision making.

A) Ballot

Method: 10-Point Scale
Options: Allow Bypass
Descriptions: Rate from 1 to 10, with 10 the highest value.

B) Results Spread

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**Statistics**

- Total: 195
- Mean: 5.74
- Mode: ??
- High: 9
- Low: 1
- STD: 1.80
- N: 34

Results Chart (34. This community encourages supports youth...
Questions and Choices in Original Order

1. What is your gender?
   1.1 Male
   1.2 Female

2. Age
   2.1 14
   2.2 15
   2.3 16
   2.4 17
   2.5 18
   2.6 19
   2.7 20

3. Highest grade completed
   3.1 7
   3.2 8
   3.3 9
   3.4 10
   3.5 11
   3.6 12
   3.7 One Year - 4 Year College
   3.8 Two Year - 4 Year College
   3.9 One Year - 2 Year College
   3.10 Two Year - 2 Year College
   3.11 Other - Please Identify

4. What is your ethnic background?
   4.1 Afro-American
   4.2 Asian
   4.3 Caucasian
   4.4 Hispanic
   4.5 Native American
   4.6 Other - Please Identify

5. Are your resident parent/s or guardian/s:
   5.1 Single
   5.2 Divorced
   5.3 Widowed
   5.4 Two parent
   5.5 Other - Please Explain
6. Do you have a job or volunteer in the community?
   6.1 Yes, I do volunteer work
   6.2 Yes, I have a part time job
   6.3 No, I do not have a job
   6.4 No, I do not volunteer

7. What type of extra-curricular activities do/did you participate in?
   7.1 Speech/Theatre
   7.2 Music
   7.3 Student Government
   7.4 Newspaper
   7.5 Sports
   7.6 Clubs/Organizations
   7.7 Other - Please Identify

8. Importance of Speech/Theatre in community.
9. Importance of music in community.
10. Importance of student government in community.
11. Importance of newspaper in community.
12. Importance of sports in community.
13. Importance of clubs/organizations in community.
15. Do you have internet access?
16. If you do where?
17. How often do you use the internet?
18. What is your school?
   18.1 Public - Jr High
   18.2 Public - HS
   18.3 Public - College
   18.4 Private - Jr High
   18.5 Private - HS
   18.6 Private - College
   18.7 Alternative - Jr
   18.8 Alternative - HS
   18.9 One - Two Year College
   18.10 Not in School
   18.11 Other - Please Describe
19. How many cliques are in your school and/or community?
   19.1 none
   19.2 a few
   19.3 several
   19.4 many

20. What types of cliques are in your school and/or community?
   20.1 Athletes
   20.2 Cheerleaders/Drill Team
   20.3 Speech/Drama
   20.4 Musicians/Band
   20.5 "Outsiders"
   20.6 Techies
   20.7 Partiers
   20.8 Other - Please Describe

21. Do you have access to alcohol?
22. Do you have access to drugs?
23. Is there community acceptance of teenage drinking?
24. Do your parents accept teenage drinking?
25. Is there community acceptance of teenage drug use?
26. Do your parents accept teenage drug use?
27. Would you say that your community has a problem with violence?
28. If yes, what type?
   28.1 Teen
   28.2 Domestic
   28.3 Other

29. Your level of satisfaction with your opportunities to be involved in community decision.
30. Would you say that teenage pregnancy is a problem in your town?
31. Does your community provide activities geared towards teenagers?
32. Does your community have a teen council or other organized method to communicate with teens?
33. This community allows youth involvement in decision making?
34. This community encourages supports youth involvement in decision making.
Youth Issues (Categorizer)

KEY ISSUES OF FARGO YOUTH

1. NOBODY LISTENS TO US

2. ADULTS TREAT US LIKE WE ARE 5 AND WE CAN’T MAKE OUR OWN DECISIONS WHEN WE CAN! I MEAN UNTIL WE ARE 17 WE HAVE A CURFEW

TEEN DEPRESSION

1. CAUSED BY POOR GRADES, SCHOOL PRESSURE, PEER PRESSURE, LEADS TO DRUG ABUSE

I agree with that. \(#225\) \(#210\)

I think this is true because students are constantly being pressured to be good in everything they do. Many teens get overwhelmed and turn to drugs, thinking that it will help their problems. \(#386\)

I disagree with this comment. Depression CAUSES poor grades, and can lead to drug abuse. Teens don’t get depressed because they have poor grades, etc. That is the result of depression. Because they are depressed, they do worse in school, turn to drugs, etc. \(#523\)

I think one of the biggest causes of depression is the academic pressure put on by schools and parents \(#238\)

Yes this is a big problem. \(#248\)

Parents and schools should be happy that we are trying our hardest. \(#254\)

I think a lot of depression is caused by peer and parent pressure having to do with more than just school, but not fitting in, or low self-esteem. \(#255\)

A lot of depression that teens face is put on by the older generation because they expect us to be in a lot of extra curricular activities, and have a job, and do our homework and get good grades, and not go to parties, and buy a vehicle and pay for gas, and act like an adult, and they expect us to know almost everything \(#306\)

I think that we should be more focused on trying to work our hardest and learn things that we will need in the future than focusing on getting the 4.0. Sometimes I think we get so focused on getting the A that we don’t even learn anything. \(#373\)

I agree. We are so pressured to be perfect. No one is satisfied with simply doing our best and working hard. \(#420\)

There is too much stress and pressure put on teens. \(#495\)

I believe that it is very easy to become depressed as a teen. There is so much going on in all of our lives, with homework and studying and boyfriends/girlfriends, sports, and jobs. There is always too much on my plate at least. I think that in school they need to show how to manage time and what you do more wisely I know I would have liked that. \(#522\)

Parents can hinder their child’s school success by putting their child in a lot of stress to make grades they may not be capable of. Parents need to be understanding and keep their eyes open to signs of depression \(#632\)

2. A LOT OF TEENS HAVE DEPRESSION, BUT ARE NOT HELPED, AND THAT LEADS TO DRINKING AND DRUGS, AND PROBLEMS AT HOME

I agree that untreated depression leads to even more problems among teens. \(#236\)

Parents don’t help, they sometimes make it worse by accusing and yelling and forcing the teen to do things that aren’t the best solutions for the problem \(#268\)

Most of the time the parents themselves are abusing drugs and alcohol at the same time \(#611\)

3. MANY KIDS TRY TO KILL THEMSELVES OVER LARGE AMOUNTS OF DEPRESSION
4. DEPRESSION IS A CHEMICAL IMBALANCE, PEER PRESSURE AND SO ON ARE THE TRIGGERS. PEOPLE DO NOT RECOGNIZE IT AS THE ILLNESS IT IS

That's true, but there's also the problem with not being able to tell the difference between low self-esteem and an actual chemical imbalance. {#260}

I agree, but what I'm trying to say is that people who are already diagnosed are not considered sick when they really are. {#387}

People should learn at an early age that depression is ok, and to get help, and not to hide it, there should be more awareness of the symptoms so teens know what is going on, and that it is not a problem with them {#227}

I agree. It's absolutely normal for a teen to be depressed. I think we should discuss how normal it is, because a lot of teens feel like they are the only ones that are depressed, but if you ask anyone around you, they can relate. {#340}

Exactly, I think that just the hormone imbalance causes depression. I think everyone gets a little depressed at times. {#363}

I agree. I think that people are sometimes scared by others that are depressed. It is an issue that is kept quiet and not talked about a lot. It needs to be opened up because everyone goes through difficult depressing times. {#408}

You are completely right, you hit the nail on the head. {#414}

But you also need to learn to differentiate between low-self esteem and a REAL chemical imbalance. Friends should encourage another friend to see a doctor or something if it's possible that it is a chemical imbalance {#462}

I think that in today's society many adults don't believe the youth when they say that they're depressed. People need to take it more seriously when somebody cries out for help before it's too late. {#501}

I agree with this, kids need to help each other out and try to accept the kids and show them they care so they don't reach the stage of depression {#512}

People need to accept people more and show them that people out there really do care for the so they don't reach the level of depression. We can't just isolate them from society. {#530}

5. MORE PROGRAMS SHOULD EXIST TO HELP TREAT/CONTROL THE DEPRESSION PROBLEM

I strongly agree with this. {#266}

I agree as well, Prairie Psychiatric and Jamestown are not enough. {#276}

I agree, I think parents should check in more {#324}

I agree. Parents and teachers should be more involved. I think teens talking to each other about it is good too. Even if you don't go to places like Prairie Psychiatric, everyone needs people to talk to if they are feeling depressed. A lot of times teens don't like talking to adults, and other teens can be a big help. {#433}

I strongly agree. There are too many suicides that could have been avoided if they were helped early on in their depression. {#511}

Is a big problem that doesn't get the attention it needs. There really isn't much help for people who need it. {#214}

Maybe there is help, but no one knows about it because it is not made known by those who are providing the help {#275}

There is help for depression in our community, but it is often hard for the person to seek help themselves. I think that people need to learn more about what to do if they know someone who is depressed so that they can help. {#502}

Too many are depressed and go untreated because no one helps {#223}

No one wants to go get help either because they are too scared or don't know where to go. {#232}
True {#243}
Exactly {#257}
Also, the people who want to help need to know how to do it {#304}
I agree {#307}

Some people who have depression don't know that it really is depression, and that just leads to them going longer without help, and in turn makes them go into a deeper depression, and can eventually lead to suicidal thoughts, including problems in school, with friends, at home, and with yourself {#318}

I think this is partly society's fault because we always send the message that you must learn to deal with whatever is thrown at you--you should never show a sad face {#402}

For that reason, many people are embarrassed by getting help {#405}

If there was more understanding about depression, there would be a lot less suicide attempts. Sometimes parents don't see depression as a problem and think it's just in the kids head. They're not supportive at all and it only makes it worse. {#443}

6. I THINK THEY SHOULD DEVOTE MORE TIME TO THIS SUBJECT IN HEALTH CLASSES

I agree, but students need to take it seriously because it is more common then people think. People need to know what causes depression because it may be their actions causing depression for themselves or others. {#281}

I agree with that {#287}

281 I would hope that is what they would be teaching in the class. {#403}

I agree. Mental health is a huge part of health in general and should be looked at more carefully in class. {#518}

7. NOT ALL PEOPLE THAT HAVE SUICIDE THOUGHTS ARE "BAD KIDS"

I would agree because I know of many people who have talked about suicide, but they are completely healthy on the outside. {#500}

In fact I would guess that 90 % of kids who commit suicide are good kids with good backgrounds {#638}

8. I THINK THAT MANY TIMES ADULTS THINK THAT TEENAGERS JUST TEND TO BE MORE UPSET AND HAVE MOOD SWINGS, BUT IT ISN'T ALWAYS JUST MOOD SWINGS

I don't think that its all about mood swings please elaborate {#506}

That's true, and unfortunately when people hear about someone that's thinking of suicide, often they don't take them seriously, and often they think that they're just trying to get attention. {#508}

That's why many people turn to suicide because people think they're doing it for attention {#514}

I agree, parents need to pay more attention to what their kids are really saying instead of being naive. {#526}

I think in certain situations parents and loved ones are in denial of someone's depression because they don't want to accept that there is something wrong with their friend or their child. {#507}

I agree {#509}

I think a lot of depression has to do with one's family life {#498}

True, if kids aren't getting the reinforcement they need at home, where else are they going to get it? {#517}

SUBSTANCE ABUSE

1. ONE OF THE MOST IMPORTANT PROBLEMS WE HAVE IS PEER PRESSURE WHEN IT COME TO DRUG AND ALCHOOL USE

I agree. {#203}
I agree with that. What can be done to slow or stop this problem? Find more activities to do in the community. Students need to get the confidence that it is okay to say no, it is okay to walk away or just refuse whatever is offered. That is one of the most important things you can do for yourself. Substance abuse is a big problem among everyone, not just athletes. A lot of times being in a sport is the only reason people don’t abuse substances.

I agree. I think a lot of times athletes tend to be the teens that don’t drink as often because they are focused on their sports. Sadly, partying in this area has become synonymous with underage drinking. It appears that teens think only more harmful drugs like cocaine or heroin are dangerous, thus making alcohol socially acceptable. However, they are setting themselves up for a lifestyle that focuses on alcohol abuse occurring wherever they have a social gathering.

One of the biggest problems in school is drinking, and it seems as if everyone does it, and they all seem to think it’s cool and okay to drink and use drugs. This is the biggest problem at my school!!!! More than 1/2 of the teens at my school use drugs or alcohol. They even bring these things to school, and they usually do not get caught, even though it is obvious.

I think more girls drink than guys at my school because they are trying to get the guys to notice that they are bad girls. many girls are out to get a guy by drinking.

2. BIG PROBLEM AMONG ATHLETES

Why? At our school, athletes seem to be favored so much that they are exempt from the rule. I know students who have gotten off by simple coaxing. Athletes feel they can do it just because they are valued. To teachers? I think that all the school districts in the FM area should have 1 rule about substance abuse in and out of season. Some schools believe in taking a student totally out of a sport if they are caught in season using, while some schools believe in the 6 week suspension. I agree that it is a problem with athletes. Athletes are sometimes overlooked because they are good at sports. Many teachers, parents, and other adults know that there is a major problem with substance abuse, but they do not do anything about it. Everyone thinks that athletes get special help in school.

Well they don’t. Sometimes they do. Basketball players at my school got parking passes just for simply being on the basketball team. Yes, sometimes sports players do get special treatment. Well if they do good at sports and do good in school they should get privileges, same with kids that don’t play sports.

But kids that aren’t in sports don’t get the privileges that the athletes do.
#221. That is not true, many athletes party, the good ones hardly ever get caught or get in trouble. The athletes that get kick off are the bad ones {#381}

People that aren't in sports party, and get caught you just don't hear about it {#396}

True, but I think that if one school in the FM area has a policy about use of drugs during season, even though they may not have the same school district, they should still follow the same guidelines. {#421}

As an athlete, I have gotten no special treatment what so ever so I disagree with a lot of you. I work hard for my grades with no help from anyone and I also work hard at my sports, and people who work hard at things should get a pat on the back. {#489}

I agree with #396 {#490}

I am in the same situation as #489 but I also know that certain athletes get special treatment. What I want to know is, why so many coaches do nothing about their athletes when they know they aren't scoring the same amount of goals because they are high on marijuana {#528}

Alcohol and substance abuse is a big topic at my school and it seems that many assume that our athletes are alcoholics. However, if you really look at the numbers of student athletes that do this the numbers are considerably lower than they would seem {#539}

I disagree with 528 at my school if a coach finds out about an athlete drinking or smoking, whatever the case may be, they are punished, usually kicked off the team. {#548}

I definitely agree with 539 {#553}

I see what you are saying 528. Some people do get special privileges just because they are good or whatever and that's not right. {#560}

I have a problem with the athletes that are the only major drinkers. I have many friends that are both athletes and non-athletes. There are some in each group who drink but I would say more that are non-athletes drink than the athletes. {#577}

577-I think that the athletes concentrate more on the sport than on drugs. I have a friend who does drugs but the only time he doesn't drink or smoke is during season, if for any reason the fear of getting caught. Many people feel this way. {#582}

I agree with u 582. I know many people in that same situation. {#585}

582 – That's very true, I see athletes at my school who have never touched drugs, but now after this season, they have just started to drink. {#586}

People think that just athletes abuse substances {#278}

And everyone thinks that they get special help in school {#288}

I agree that other people use substances too, not just athletes. {#292}

I think that people just notice the athletes more, because if they get caught they are actually punished for what they did. {#326}

Of all the parties that get busted they all have to do with some sports team whether it is hockey, football, or basketball. Even if they don't get busted, a lot of the big parties are thrown by an athlete. {#409}

#409 I think that with the number of athletes per capita of our schools, and how social they usually are it just seems likely that athletes would throw parties where more kids showed up therefore making them more likely to get busted. That's why you always hear about athletes and drinking. {#519}

I agree with #326 {#521}

519, That is a good point. You always hear about who got a minor and what sport they are in, but u never actually hear about the other people, unless you know them. {#635}

3. TEENS HAVE NOTHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS WHICH DRIVES TEENS TO SUBSTANCE ABUSE OUT OF BOREDOM
I think if teens had more things to do on days in which they are not doing anything, I don’t think substance abuse would be such a problem. {#273}

I think our community has done an awesome job of putting together events for teens to do on the weekends. An example of this was the United We Dance at the Ramada. That was so awesome how all the schools got together. I think community events like that will keep our community and teenagers growing in more positive ways. {#314}

I would have to say that I agree very much, and really, one of the big ways to stop abuse is having things for the kids to do, just like 273 said {#349}

I also think that students drink and do drugs just BECAUSE it is illegal. They feel they are being rebellious so they feel cool, or something like that if you look at countries that have a legal age of age of like 16, the amount of teenagers that drink is WAY less {#417}

I agree with 417, many kids who have access to drugs and alcohol abuse them to kill time if they’re home alone and bored. Sometimes even when their parents are home {#660}

4. I DONT THINK PEOPLE JUST THINK ATHLETES DO ALCOHOL--THE TRUTH IS, SPORTS ARE A BIG PART OF OUR HIGH SCHOOLS AND SO WE FIND OUT ABOUT THOSE MORE

5. THERE SHOULD BE STRicter LAWS AND PUNISHMENTS FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE

   Yes {#468}

6. A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO YOU WOULDN'T EXPECT TO ABUSE SUBSTANCES DO. THAT SHOWS YOU HOW OUT OF CONTROL IT IS.

7. I THINK THAT ONE REASON WHY TEENS DO THINGS LIKE DRUGS, ALCOHOL, SEX, ETC. BESIDES "EVERYONE DOES IT" IS THAT THEY SHOULDN'T DO IT AND THEY EITHER KIND OF WANT TO GET CAUGHT OR THEY JUST LIKE "LIVING ON THE WILD SIDE"

   I think a lot of it also has to do with the situation at home {#446}

   I agree with 446. The parents involvement in their lives and what they think about all of this and if they tell their children it is wrong and don't do it themselves {#589}

8. I THINK SUBSTANCE ABUSE IS SO HIGH BECAUSE IT'S SO EASY TO GET AROUND TOWN

   I agree it is extremely easy to find someone to buy alcohol for a teenager. (#549)

   It is also very easy to get other drugs to, all you need to know is the right people. (#563)

   I think one of the reason's why it's such a problem is because its so easy to get, no matter what the substance (#527)

   Teenagers are usually not able to buy alcohol for themselves. We need to look at where part of the problem is starting. I rarely hear of punishments for people over 21 buying for younger kids. I think we also need to start putting the focus on where teenagers are getting alcohol from. {#536}

   It is crazy how easy it is to get drugs these days, kids deal them in school out in the open. I see kids popping pills in the lunch room all the time. What is even sadder is how the police and law enforcement don't notice when I can easily point out who has drugs everyday {#676}

9. EVERYONE THINKS IT'S THE COOL THING TO DO. EVERYONE JUST WANTS TO FIT IN. NOBODY WANTS TO BE THE PERSON AT THE PARTY THAT SAYS "NO" WHEN EVERYONE ELSE IS SAYING "YES!"

10. THIS IS A PROBLEM AT MY SCHOOL. I DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW THE PEOPLE WHO BRING IT INTO SCHOOL DONT GET CAUGHT WHEN IT GETS AROUND SO FAST THAT THEY HAVE IT.

11. A LOT OF PEOPLE CLAIM TO DO IT BECAUSE THERE'S NOTHING ELSE TO DO IN TOWN OR THAT IF THEY WANT TO HANG OUT WITH THEIR FRIENDS THEY HAVE TO AT LEAST BE AROUND IT TO "FIT IN"

   I agree. It is really hard to have friends that go out and drink on the weekends. They have accepted my choice that I don’t. But I will still go out with them, basically because I don’t have much else to do.
They are my friends, granted I try to hang out with other people but it is hard to give up friends you have had for many years. It is wrong that I might be punished someday for being at a party but not drinking. (#557)

12. A LOT OF PEOPLE’S PARENTS SUPPORT IT IN MODERATION WHICH MAKES IT A GROWING TREND

Many teens think it is ok to drink because they see their parents drinking, and they don't understand that it's not good, because their parents are ok with it. (#466)

Usually when parents drink, it's social drinking. They're not getting drunk and going out and partying. Also parents are of an appropriate age to drink. (#475)

13. I THINK THAT IT IS WAY TOO EASY TO GET ALCOHOL AND DRUGS, WE NEED TO MAKE IT A LOT MORE DIFFICULT. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE IN OUR COMMUNITY THAT USE DRUGS AND ALCOHOL

14. I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE THINK THAT IT JUST ISN’T THAT BIG OF A DEAL, AND THEY THINK IT IS FUN

EATING DISORDERS

1. TODAY’S SOCIETY IS OVERLY FOCUSED ON APPEARANCE AND PUTS PRESSURE ESPECIALLY ON HOW TEENS LOOK

I agree. We are always being pressured to look perfect and be physically fit. (#228)

Many people have eating disorders because of the pressure by society. (#235)

The models, TV/movie stars are all super skinny, and that makes some want to be skinny too, some feel that guys/girls are only attracted to super skinny people (#240)

Some teenagers may not know any other way of seeing themselves as being perfect unless they are exactly like the movie stars (#282)

Society's standards are way too high. (#301)

This is all true. There is way too much pressure on girls to be the best looking. You can tell this from just watching movies. There so full of parts that expose women or exploit women. (#244)

I agree. Not every girl is going to be the perfect height and weight and be the prettiest. Society should be more accepting with different kinds of people. I think models should not always have the perfect bodies either. (#454)

There is too much focus on how we all look and it doesn't seem like people care about their inside beauty any more. (#503)

Today everything is based on appearance even as much as we want to deny it. (#550)

I would definitely agree (#555)

2. CAUSED BY DESIRE TO FIT IN, TO GET A BOYFRIEND, MOSTLY ABUSED BY TEENAGE GIRLS

Definitely likely among girls...the media is a big problem causing factor (#272)

I think they just do it because they want attention (#291)

I agree, I think a lot of the pressure is caused by the opposite sex. (#296)

#296 Yes but not all of it is caused by the opposite sex. (#303)

I don't agree that it is for attention, but some times it may be. Some people with eating disorders feel like they have no control over anything, so they try to gain control of their weight (#315)

Ya girls try too hard to look good (#316)

In movies it's always the cute physically fit girl that has the cute guy. (#479)
I know for a fact that most people of the opposite sex can be turned off to people they suspect have eating disorders. I know a person with an eating disorder when I see and converse with them. It personally grosses me out, I wish people with this problem would realize this (#552).

I don't think that a lot of "boyfriends" and etc. Understand (#551)

"Boyfriends" don't understand how every little thing that they say the girl registers and never forgets (#562)

3. SOME PEOPLE DON'T GET ENOUGH SUPPORT AT HOME ABOUT THEIR LOOKS, AND EVEN SOME PARENTS TELL THEIR KIDS THEY NEED TO LOSE WEIGHT, WHEN IN FACT THEY ARE AT AN AGE WHERE THEY ARE A LITTLE CHUBBY, BUT THEY NEED THE FAT TO GROW TALLER

I agree. Parents are the last people who need to be telling their kids to lose weight. (#460)

Who says "a little chubby is bad" it's the way we think now, because of society. (#488)

Instead of parents telling their kids to lose weight they need to help them lose weight by serving them healthier meals and encouraging them not to eat junk food. They need to start when they are little with healthy meals so they are not used to all the junk food out there (#628)

4. TAKE A LOOK AT THE CLOTHES THEY SELL IN "TRENDY" STORES. THEY ARE PROVOCATIVE AND REVEALING THEY ARE DESIGNED TO BE WORN BY SIZE 2 WOMEN AND THE MAJORITY OF OUR POPULATION ARE NOT SIZE 2

This is a major problem in our society today and it really needs to be addressed (#365)

I totally agree, designers should try to make more clothing for the sizes above 2. Shorts these days are really short, most girls don’t have stick thin legs and don’t feel comfortable wearing that short of shorts. I think that there should be better length shorts for girls with thicker legs (#450)

I totally agree

Why can’t there be cute clothes out there that cover up the body, but that we totally feel comfortable and confident in (#456)

I agree. Most clothes do not fit the average girl because you have to be very thin to wear them. They should make modest clothes that will look good on any type of body. (#469)

I agree. Shopping at most stores can cause a young girl to feel fat because all of the clothes seem so small, and some stores you have to ask for the bigger sizes that are stored in the back. (#568)

5. DEFINETELY #5----IT IS HARD THESE DAYS BECAUSE EVERYONE, INCLUDING ADULTS, IS TRYING TO LOSE WEIGHT

I agree. When a child sees a parent watching his or her weight they feel they need to do the same. (#576)

6. I THINK FEMALE ATHLETES TRY TO "WATCH" WHAT THEY EAT TO STAY PHYSICALLY FIT, BUT THEY REALLY NEED THE ENERGY TO KEEP THEMSELVES GOING. THEN THEY BECOME UNHEALTHY.

I agree. "Watching" what you eat does not help and it is unhealthy. If the girls want to stay fit and look good, they still need to eat. They can exercise more and eat healthier foods like fruits and vegetables, but dieting and not eating is the wrong thing to do. (#484)

7. EVERYONE HAS AN IDEA OF WHAT A PERFECT BODY LOOK IS, BUT IN REALITY HARDLY ANYONE HAS THE FIGURE THAT WE THINK OF. I ALSO THINK THAT EATING DISORDERS ARE NOT ALWAYS WOMEN

8. I BELIEVE EATING DISORDERS ARE ALSO CAUSED BY SITUATIONS IN LIFE BESIDES WEIGHT ISSUES. MUCH OF IT STARTS WITH EMOTIONAL STRUGGLES, CHIEFLY HOME LIFE AND SELF IMAGE.

9. THERE'S A LOT OF PRESSURE FROM YOUR PEERS ABOUT HOW YOU SHOULD LOOK. IT'S HARD TO EAT A NORMAL SIZE LUNCH WHEN ALL YOUR FRIENDS JUST EAT 1/2 A BAGEL. SOME GIRLS DO IT TO SHOW OFF.
I definitely agree with the "some girls do it to show off" part. But there are some people that watch what they eat because they want to be healthy, and they get a lot of talk from their friends because all of a sudden they think they're anorexic. (#571)

10. I THINK ADULTS ARE REALLY IN THE DARK ABOUT THE CONSTANT STRUGGLE THAT HAPPENS OVER WEIGHT ISSUES.

11. I THINK EATING DISORDERS ARE CAUSED BY PEOPLE JUST TRYING TO LOOK PERFECT FOR THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM. THERE ARE SO MANY PEOPLE ON TV THAT HAVE "PERFECT BODIES" AND MANY PEOPLE WANT TO BE LIKE THAT.

12. THE AVERAGE SIZE OF AN AMERICAN WOMAN IS A SIZE 16...SO WHY IS IT THAT SOCIETY FOCUSES ON SIZE 0-6?
   I don't know but it is Hollywood (#661)

13. A LOT OF PEOPLE ARE OVERWEIGHT BECAUSE THEY ARE SO INSECURE THAT THEY GO TO FOOD AS THEIR COMFORT. WE NEED TO HELP PEOPLE HAVE MORE CONFIDENCE BY TELLING THEM THEY LOOK FINE AND ARE OKAY HOW THEY ARE.
   I agree! How many times does one hear reinforcement that they look fine? Not enough obviously (#655)

14. PEOPLE WITH EATING DISORDERS ARE VERY INSECURE ABOUT THEMSELVES AND THE ONLY THING THEY CAN CONTROL IS THEIR FOOD.

15. IT IS DIFFICULT TO EAT A LOT IN FRONT OF GUYS BECAUSE YOU DON'T WANT THEM TO THINK THAT YOU ARE A "PIG"

NOTHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS

1. MAKE AVAILABLE DIFFERENT "HOBBY" CLASSES FOR TEENS TO BE INVOLVED IN
   I think there are many hobbies for teens to be in. (#432)
   But have organizations or classes for them to take that they can enjoy and not feel that it is a competition (#442)
   I disagree with #1. I don't think many teens (at least my age) would join classes. It's just hard to do things on weekends because some of your friends can't drive, or can't find rides, and everyone lives so far away from each other. (#535)

2. IF STUDENTS HAVE NOTHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS IT'S THEIR FAULT. THERE IS PLENTY OF STUFF TO DO IN THE COMMUNITY.
   I disagree (#356)
   There is stuff for the athletes to do and the partiers, but what about people who want to do artsy stuff or dance or draw (#360)
   There are classes for it, but not enough classes and not a very good variety (#364)
   If you're bored you should at least get a bunch of your friends over to your house to share your boredom, they're probably just as bored (#564)
   On weekends there is only so much to do in Fargo. Sometimes we do go over to friends' houses but even sitting around and talking or watching movies gets old after a while. There really needs to be some more activities for the youth of this community. (#584)
   I THINK THAT THERE IS NOT ENOUGH ACTIVITIES FOR TEENS IN THE COMMUNITY. I AGREE WITH #3. A LOT OF PEOPLE SPEND THEIR WEEKENDS DOING THINGS THEY SHOULDN'T BECAUSE THERE ISN'T ENOUGH PLACES TO GO BESIDES JUST DRIVING AROUND. IF PLACES WERE OFFERED THAT DIDN'T ALLOW SUBSTANCE ABUSE I THINK LESS PEOPLE WOULD DO IT IF THEY REALLY WANTED TO GO. (#377)
   I AGREE WITH #2. IT MAY TAKE A LITTLE IMAGINATION AND CREATIVITY, BUT THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS TO DO. OUR CULTURE HAS GOTTEN INTO A MODE OF THINKING THAT
REQUIRES EVERYONE TO BE ENTERTAINED. WE'RE QUICKLY LOSING THE ABILITY TO THINK ON OUR OWN AND BE CREATIVE. (#544)
I DEFINITLY AGREE!!! (#569)
I AGREE WITH #7. THERE ARE PLENTY OF THINGS TO DO ON THE WEEKENDS. SOME STUFF IS EXPENSIVE BUT SOME STUFF IS PRETTY CHEAP. THE DOLLAR THEATER IS THE BEST THING IN THE WORLD. AND YOU DON'T JUST HAVE TO SPEND MONEY. YOU CAN PLAY BASKETBALL, GO ROLLAR BLADING, HAVE FRIENDS OVER ECT. IT IS ONLY "BORING" BECAUSE PEOPLE MAKE IT BORING (#578)

3. IF WE HAD MORE PROGRAMS TO DO DURING OUR SPARE TIME, I THINK THAT SUBSTANCE ABUSE WOULD DECREASE AMONG TEENAGERS
I DISAGREE WITH #3. I KNOW OF MANY PEOPLE THAT GO TO FUNCTIONS DRUNK OR HIGH. JUST BECAUSE THERE IS SOMETHING GOING ON, IT DOESN'T STOP THEM FROM ABUSING (#305)
I think there would be less of it, but it would not stop
If there are things available to teens that they enjoy, they are more likely to do that then to do drugs or drink (#370)
THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH TO DO AROUND HERE. THERE SHOULD BE MORE THINGS AVAILABLE TO THE TEENS (#542)

4. IN RESPONSE TO #5 IT'S BEEN MY EXPERIENCE THAT PEOPLE THEN JUST SHOW UP ALREADY DRUNK OR HIGH. IF PEOPLE WANT TO DRINK THEY'LL DRINK. IT'S JUST A MATTER OF WHEN AND WHERE.

5. I FEEL THERE IS A LOT TO DO ON THE WEEKENDS, BUT SOME PEOPLE ARE NOT IN THE RIGHT ENVIRONMENT TO DO THINGS CONSTRUCTIVELY
The Fargo/Moorhead area needs more venues that appeal to teens. A specific example is music. Most all of the local music acts are either at 21+ venues or they simply only attract adult audiences. More venues that would host all ages concerts should be established to provide alternatives to drinking at parties to pass the time. (#566)

6. THERE ARE LOTS OF ACTIVITIES TO DO ON WEEKENDS, THE PROBLEM IS THE MONEY INVOLVED. MOST OF MY FRIENDS LIKE TO GO TO THE MALL, OR TO A MOVIE, OR A GAME. THESE ALL INVOLVE SPENDING MONEY, AND IT REALLY ADDS UP.

7. WE NEED TO HAVE MORE ACTIVITIES IN THE COMMUNITY THAT ARE INNEXPENSIVE AND FUN, PEOPLE DO NOT ALWAYS WANT TO GO TO THE MOVIES AND THE MALL

8. I BELIEVE THAT WE NEED MORE PLACES FOR YOUTH TO ENJOY THEIR FREE TIME
I AGREE (#639)
Something that is safe and not too expensive. (#682)
There are plenty of places that youth can enjoy their free time. I think that the real problem is not knowing where those places are. (#695)

9. MORE ALL AGES CONCERT VENUES ARE NEEDED

10. I BELIEVE WE NEED MORE SAFE PLACES WHERE TEENS CAN HANG OUT TOGETHER WITHOUT CAUSING TROUBLE. I MEAN PEOPLE GET MAD THAT YOUTH CAUSE TROUBLE BUT WHAT ELSE ARE WE SUPPOSED TO DO IF OUR CHOICES ARE GOING TO THE MALL OR A MOVIE.
I AGREE. AN EFFORT SHOULD BE MADE TO BRING THIS TO THE DOWNTOWN AREA. (#699)
YES!!! (#702)

11. WE NEED SOMETHINGS LESS EXPENSIVE THAT THE YOUTH CAN DO FOR FUN.
I AGREE (#694)
12. I DISAGREE WITH #3. I DON'T THINK THAT THE TEENS THAT CAUSE TROUBLE WILL BE THE ONES THAT WANT TO GO TO THE "SAFE PLACES" TO HANG OUT. EVEN IF YOU OFFER THEM PROGRAMS AND ACTIVITIES, THEY WILL STILL WANT TO CAUSE TROUBLE!!

13. BUT WHAT ELSE IS THERE TO DO THAT WOULD BE LESS EXPENSIVE? ANY IDEAS? (#4)

14. I THINK WE SHOULD HAVE ANOTHER ALL CITY DANCE!

TEEN SEXUALITY

1. MORE ACCEPTANCE OF THEIR SEXUALITY
   I don't think my school is as accepting as i think it should be (#209)

2. HELP WITH ABSTENANCE AND SEXUAL PROMISCUITY
   I strongly agree with this comment. I know a lot of people who haven't maintained their sexual purity and they really regret it now. Every time you have sex with someone or do something sexual with them, you are giving part of your self away to them that you can never get back. And when it finally comes time to get married, you are basically saying to that person that 'i gave myself away to all of these other guys/girls, but you can have what is left.' I think that teens should be told more about the consequences of their actions from people who know what they are talking about, not hear it from their friends who say that for the moment it is fun. (#546)

   I agree, people are way too loose these days, I know for certain that the same group of girls have sex every weekend, and they talk about it a lot in school (#690)

3. I KNOW MANY STUDENTS WHO ARE SEXUALLY PROMISCUOUS, BUT ARE STILL ABLE TO MAINTAIN A GRIP ON THEIR LIFE

4. BECAUSE OF THAT, MANY PEOPLE FEEL IT IS OKAY AS LONG AS THEY DON'T LET IT GET OUT OF CONTROL

5. MANY TEENS THINK IT IS OK TO HAVE SEX
   YES THEY DO (#267)

   I agree. Because of television, radio, movies, and other things, sex seems to not be a big deal. Teens think it is okay and think that there is no problem or harm in doing it. (#302)

   302- I agree. Media makes us think that it's okay to have sex. It's taken so lightly. (#347)

   Totally---shows like Dawson's Creek, and Felicity, talk openly about it, like it's as extreme and making out or something

   Of course, they never talk about the negative aspects of it (#372)

   Exactly, in some ways the media has made us immune to actually think about things like that before we do them. The media is EVERYWHERE today, including the internet, making sex such a casual thing. Sex is not equivalent to love. (#391)

   391- YES!!! (#401)

   There are two views to that. I agree that there are many teens that feel that it is ok to have sex or at least that it is much more acceptable than say 20 years ago. But I have many friends who love shows like Dawson's Creek and Sex in the City but abstain from having sex. They feel that right now there are better ways to say I love you. (#545)

   #545 to add to that, we can't blame the media solely for the problem of teen sex. We are not slaves to the media. I think that it is possible to form convictions that are stronger than any half hour block of TV. (#579)

6. RIGHT, AND A LOT OF THEM DON'T THINK IT IS WRONG BECAUSE THERE IS NO LAW AGAINST IT
   I disagree. I don't think that they don't think it's wrong because there is no law. I think that through all of the media it brain washes us to believe that it's alright, since we see it ALL the time. (#359)
Exactly #359 (#394)
There are laws against it. You can get charged with statutory rape if you are under 14 or something also if an adult has sex with a minor he can be charged with rape you have to be very careful (#592)
THERE ARE LAWS FOR DRUGS AND ALCOHOL BUT NONE FOR SEX (#247)
I don't think you could ever have a law against sex. (#425)
It would be too hard to control, and there would probably be too many people opposed to it. (#431)
Probably (#436)
Even if there was a law, teens would still be breaking it and many for the idea because they know it is wrong. Anyways, how could you punish someone for having premarital sex?? (#440)
SO THEY FEEL THAT NOTHING IS BAD (#250)
I THINK KIDS KNOW IT IS BAD, BUT DON'T SEE THE IMMEDIATE REPERCUSSIONS FOR THEIR ACTIONS. MANY PEOPLE HAVE LOST THE MORALS SOCIETY USED TO MAINTAIN. (#264)
People don't know it's bad until they get hurt or sick. (#319)
Yeah I guess, but it is also the whole moral issue (#352)
A lot of our morals come from laws that are in place and we don’t see a law made against having sex, we think, "hey it's okay" (#357)
Kids are so into immediate gratification these days, that they will do anything to feel what they want right then, w/o analyzing what could actually happen if mistakes were made (#367)
I agree with #367, and society used to be totally against premarital sex til about the 60's or 70's when people started to get rebellious. Before that you were looked down upon for an action like that. Now, it's just normal...which is really sad. (#419)
True (#435)
I think it is wrong for the law to be able to punish people for having sex before they are married because it is a personal choice of theirs. A person who is having sex is not endangering the lives of others, whereas drugs and alcohol do. Also sex before marriage is usually a religious choice and we do have freedom of choice in America. (#626)

7. ABSTINENCE NEEDS TO BE SHOWN FROM AN EARLY AGE STARTING IN THE HOME THAT TEEN SEX IS WRONG

Yes, although it is uncomfortable, I think it is important for students and parents to have the "sex talk" so the child knows where the parent stands. (#393)
Absolutely (#422)
Parents sometimes get so caught up in their own problems they start caring less and less about what their children do, they don't keep track of them as much. (#429)
I think that it is important not to tell or demand your teen to have sex, because that will drive them away from the parent, and make them want to do it because it goes against their parents, but to say the risks involved and to really encourage abstinence, and the key thing is love between the parent and child, because I think the reason why teens are having sex is because they are being ignored and disrespected at home (#434)
I really don't think that it is the schools or parents fault, it is the students, there is so much information that is taught in school about std's and aids, and what the other consequences are--the student is so into immediate gratification that they don't care about the consequences--it is almost like a drug---they just want to get their "fix" (#439)
I agree with 434--if parents demand "don't do this" or "don't do that", it will make the kid more rebellious and make them want to do it more--I know this because I am like that---if my parents tell me not to do something without some rational reason, I will want to do it even more (#449)
I AGREE BECAUSE PROBLEMS CAN BE PREVENTED AT HOME (#477)

I AGREE WITH YOU....KIDS NEED TO KNOW FROM DAY ONE HOW THEIR PARENTS STAND ON THAT ISSUE AND THE PARENTS NEED TO ENFORCE IT STRONGLY (#590)

8. ONE OF THE MAIN REASONS THAT THIS IS HAPPENING IS BECAUSE OF WHAT IS ON TV AND THE THINGS ON THE INTERNET THAT TEENS HAVE EASY ACCESS TO

You’re right, TV and internet show sex so much it becomes the norm. I strongly believe parents should take an active role in supervising what their children watch instead of sending them to the TV when they don't want to deal with them. (#455)

I TOTALLY AGREE WITH #11 (#411)

9. PEOPLE RELY TOO MUCH ON CONDOMS, I THINK THAT THEY NEED TO REALIZE THAT CONDOMS DO NOT ALWAYS PROTECT YOU FROM STDs.

Condoms also do not always prevent you from becoming pregnant (#593)

I AGREE W/ #593. THE ONLY SOLUTION IS ABSTINENCE. (#667)

10. TEENS WATCH TV, AND TALK TO THEIR FRIENDS. THEY KNOW WHAT’S GOING ON, AND JUST WANT TO FIT IN. THEY THINK THAT IF EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING IT, IT MUST BE OK.

I AGREE WITH #13! (#556)

If studies maybe would show that not everyone is having sex maybe that kind of good pressure would convince them that it is maybe not the thing to do (#599)

I agree. There is too much emphasis on sex in the media for teens. All of the popular shows that teens watch make sex seem like a normal thing to do if you're 16, and this should be thought about more carefully because they are influencing a lot of teens. (#662)

11. TEENS KNOW THE RISKS OF BEING SEXUALLY ACTIVE. MOST OF THEM JUST DON'T CARE, OR DON'T THINK IT WILL HAPPEN TO THEM.

I disagree. I think that many teens don't know enough about sex and need to be more educated. It's true that some will still do it even if they know the consequences, but so many don't seem to know enough about STD's and pregnancy. (#651)

12. MORALS AND ETHICS NEED TO BE MAINTAINED. SEX OUTSIDE OF MARRIAGE IS WRONG. BESIDES MORAL REASONS, THERE ARE HEALTH AND EMOTIONAL REASONS FOR STAYING SEXUALLY PURE UNTIL MARRIAGE. I BELIEVE OUR SCHOOL SYSTEMS SHOULD BE PROMOTING ABSTINENCE PROGRAMS INSTEAD OF SIMPLY EMPOWERING TEENS TO MAKE THE WRONG CHOICE.

PEOPLE AREN'T STICKING TO ANY MORALS THAT THEY GREW UP WITH...IF THEY EVEN HAD ANY (#587)

I think if parents really stress morals and try to enforce them kids might not be having sex (#596)

13. #13 IS CORRECT THEY JUST ASSUME IT WILL ALL BE OK

TEEN PRESSURE/ACCEPTANCE

1. GANGS

I don't think gangs are as much of a problem as cliques. (#404)

I agree with #404 (#606)

2. SOCIAL CLIQUES

This is a big problem in my school (#251)

Social cliques directly relate to teen acceptance because in high school is when you are worried about being accepted (#261)
Social cliques are very bad. You can have close friends but when you start putting down other people that shows that you have a weak character. {#334}

You are so worried about fitting in at school that you may put yourself in danger about getting the things you need to belong, and you don't care about anyone, just fitting in {#390}

YEAH, I KIND OF AGREE, ALTHOUGH I THINK ONCE WE GET INTO HIGH SCHOOL, THE CLIQUES START TO DISAPPEAR {#258}

No, the cliques are just as bad in high school {#397}

I think that the cliques are still there, but there isn't as much teasing if you aren't in those cliques. {#444}

I AGREE WITH #6. I DON'T KNOW IF CLIQUES NECESSARILY DISAPPEAR, BUT I DON'T THINK THEY'RE THAT IMPORTANT. PEOPLE HAVE CERTAIN FRIENDS. THE CLIQUES AREN'T SO BAD THAT PEOPLE ONLY TALK TO THEIR FRIENDS IN THE CLIQUE. IN MY SCHOOL, EVERYONE TALKS TO EVERYONE THAT THEY HAVE SOMETHING IN COMMON WITH. {#286}

DEFINITELY AGREE WITH 8--ONCE WE START TO MATURE, WE REALIZE THAT EVERYONE IS DIFFERENT AND THAT IS WHAT MAKES EVERYONE INTERESTING AND UNIQUE {#294}

THERE IS WAY TOO MUCH ON THE ISSUE OF SOCIAL CLASSES AND HAVING TO BE POPULAR {#249}

I agree {#253}

WE LEARN TO ACCEPT PEOPLE FOR WHO THEY ARE AND MAKE OURSELVES BETTER PEOPLE IN THE PROCESS {#300}

I agree that cliques aren't that bad. At least in my school. We have numerous amounts of "cliques" or groups of friends but I don't see teasing or taunting just because they aren't in that group. I am friends with many people from different groups of friends and while some people dislike my friends in other groups they don't do anything or say anything to that person about it. As we mature we realize that it's not who you’re friends with because friends, while growing up, keep changing due to new interests and activities. {#624}

3. SECLUDED FROM DIFFERENT SCHOOLS, SUCH AS: IF YOU ARE FROM A CERTAIN SCHOOL, YOU ARE NOT GOOD ENOUGH, OR TOO GOOD, TO HANG AROUND PEOPLE FROM OTHER SCHOOLS.

I know what you mean. Many people get the impression that private school kids are "stuck up" and so when schools combine they stick to that impression and just assume. We need to have more school interaction between public and private. {#389}

I go to a private school and teachers are always comparing us to public schools like we're rivals. {#400}

4. WHERE WOULD A YOUTH GO IF ALL OF ITS LIFE IT HAS BEEN BEING TOLD IT IS WAY TOO OLD FOR ITS AGE?

5. PEOPLE SEEM TO NOT ACCEPT PEOPLE WHO ARE DIFFERENT THAN THEMSELVES. THIS CAN MAKE OTHERS FEEL EXCLUDED AND LONELY

Only some cliques though. The more popular cliques start to {#604}

6. I DISAGREE WITH #6,8 CLIQUES ARE PRESENT IN HIGH SCHOOL, AND IT IS HARD, THEY CAN EVEN EXIST IN COLLEGE AND WHEN WE ARE OLD. SOME PEOPLE NEVER GROW OUT OF THEM. USUALLY THE PEOPLE WHO SAY THEY ARE NOT A PROBLEM ARE THOSE WHO ARE SO CALLED IN THE "POPULAR" GROUP

I completely agree with you {#368}

I don't think that there is as much pressure to be in them. People kind of stop teasing the people that aren’t in their clique {#470}

7. PARENTS SHOULD RAISE THEIR CHILDREN TO HAVE RESPECT FOR THEMSELVES, AND TO FEEL CONFIDENT, THAT WAY WHEN HIGH SCHOOL COMES AROUND, THEY WON’T BE
FOLLOWERS, AND WILL BE HAPPY WITH THEIR TRUE FRIENDS AND NOT NECESSARILY WITH WHO IS POPULAR

8. I DISAGREE WITH #10. MAYBE THE PEOPLE IN THE SO CALLED POPULAR GROUP DON'T SEE IT AS A PROBLEM BECAUSE THEY ARE MORE ACCEPTING TO EVERYONE ELSE THEN YOU THINK. MAYBE IT'S NOT A BIG DEAL BECAUSE THEY DO TALK TO MOST OTHER PEOPLE

Accepting!!! Bull. They talk trash about each other behind their backs, they put others down so they can feel better about themselves, they make fun of others because they don't like some of the stuff they do. If they are so accepting then why will they not even talk to unpopular kids (#491)

I think that it depends on the person. I talk with everyone popular to nonpopular. It doesn't matter to some of us. I can totally relate to what you said about people saying things behind people's backs but in my experience it is usually friends who got into a fight, in the same group of friends. I have never heard someone say things behind someone's back that would cause harm to that person either physically or emotionally without really knowing that person. Sorry but some people are just immature, that doesn't speak for the rest of us still attending your schools. (#666)

9. SORRY I SUBMITTED BEFORE I WAS DONE: I'D HAVE TO AGREE WITH NUMBER11, THERE AREN'T ENOUGH TEENS WHO ARE CONFIDENT IN THEMSELVES AND FINE WITH JUST THEIR TRUE FRIENDS

10. THAT'S VERY TRUE. #11 AND #15. I USED TO BE LIKE THAT.

11. TEENS NEED TO LEARN THAT THEY CAN TRUST ADULTS LIKE COUNSELORS AND TEACHERS, OR EVEN JUST REALIZE THAT THEY CAN TALK TO THEIR FRIENDS ABOUT PROBLEMS BECAUSE IF THEY DON'T THEN IS USUALLY LEADS TO SOMETHING VERY BAD

I agree. Sometimes teens just go to their friends, and sometimes the issues that they are faced with are too advanced for the friend to deal with and the problem may just get worse, (#355)

12. WOW WHERE TO START. THERE IS SO MUCH PRESSURE TO DO ANYTHING AND EVERYTHING FROM THE SMALLEST THINGS TO THE BIGGEST. I THINK THAT NOT ONLY PARENTS BUT TEACHERS NEED TO BE MORE AWARE OF WHAT IS GOING ON WITH THE YOUTH IN FARGO.

13. I AGREE WITH #17 WE DO NEED TO TRUST ADULTS, THEY CAN HELP US A LOT.

14. I COMPLETELY AGREE WITH #5. MY SCHOOL IS ALL ABOUT BEING POPULAR.

15. IT SEEMS LIKE BEING A TEENAGER TODAY IS ALL ABOUT ACCEPTANCE FROM TEACHERS, PARENTS, COACHES, AND FRIENDS

16. I THINK THAT THE AMOUNT OF PRESSURE YOU PUT ON YOURSELF TO BE POPULAR AND WITH THE 'IN' CROWD PRESSURE IS WHAT YOU MAKE IT. YOU MIGHT FEEL PRESSURED TO DO SOMETHING, BUT ULTIMATELY, YOU ARE PUTTING THE PRESSURE ON YOURSELF. IT ALL DEPENDS ON WHAT SCHOOL YOU GO TO ALSO. IF PEOPLE MAKE YOU FEEL INFERIOR, WHY WOULD YOU WANT TO BE FRIENDS WITH THEM ANYWAY.

I agree. No one can make you feel anything you don't want to feel. If they want you to feel inferior stop talking to them. You don't have to be friends with them and they obviously don't want to be friends with you. (#678)

FIGHTS

1. FAMILIES

2. RACISM AND PREJUDICE

People always think that we used to fight or have conflicts with racism and prejudice a long time ago, but I still think it's an issue. Many people still use racism in name calling and "joking" around. It's still racism. It's still a problem I think. (#331)

I still think racism is a big problem. I see a lot and I think a lot of it stems from the families and how the person was brought up. (#354)
I think that there is a small problem with this. (#383)
9/11 just "resurrected" all of the racism kidding and teasing (#399)
There is a lot of racism at my school (#447)
I mean pretty much if you have darker hair then most people you’re immediately called Mexican or something of that nature (#458)
It’s pretty sad (#474)
I agree that there is a lot of racism within our community. The new students at our school must feel so lonely and scared already, and when people make fun of them for being different I can’t even imagine how awful they feel. (#679)
That is very true 679, just the other day I saw someone making fun of a handicapped person. It was really sad how that person had no feelings whatsoever towards her, it all goes back to the saying, treat people how you would want to be treated. (#698)

3. TEACHERS AND STUDENTS

4. A LOT OF FIGHTS ARE GENERATED OVER THE POLITICAL CONFLICTS THAT ARE NOW HAPPENING BECAUSE OF 9/11

5. MANY KIDS HAVE PARENTS WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN THEIR LIVES, AND THAT IN TURN MAKES THEM ANGRY AND THEN THEY HURT SOMEONE

6. I THINK MOST FIGHTS ARE BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE WHO JUST DON’T GET ALONG AND DON’T TRY TO UNDERSTAND ONE ANOTHER. USUALLY FIGHTS OCCUR BETWEEN TWO PEOPLE THAT HAVE A LOT OF BUILT UP ANGER FROM OTHER THINGS, AND AN ARGUMENT WITH ANOTHER PERSON IS JUST A GOOD OUTLET FOR THEM.

   I TOTALLY AGREE WITH 6—HALF THE TIME, PEOPLE WHO ARE IN FIGHTS CAN’T EVEN GIVE YOU A GOOD REASON AS TO WHY THEY ARE FIGHTING (#333)

7. MANY PEOPLE AREN’T ABLE TO CONTROL THEIR ANGER

   I think many people have anger-related problems. I have discovered that it is hard to control your anger with everyday situations going on. (#481)

   I THINK FIGHTING IN SCHOOLS IS RIDICULOUS, IF YOU ARE GOING TO FIGHT, WHICH YOU SHOULDN’T AT ALL, DON’T INVOLVE SCHOOL, DO IT ON YOUR OWN TIME. I DISAGREE WITH #8, CONTROLLING YOUR ANGER IS SOMETHING YOU SHOULD HAVE LEARNED AT A YOUNG AGE. (#457)

   I DISAGREE WITH #8. PEOPLE CAN CONTROL THEIR ANGER IF THEY WANT TO. PEOPLE JUST SAY THAT THEY CAN’T TO GET OUT OF TROUBLE. IT IS AN EASY WAY THEY CAN GET OUT OF THEIR ACTIONS BECAUSE “NO ONE ELSE UNDERSTANDS.” ULTIMATELY, THEY CAN CONTROL THEIR ANGER, THEY JUST HAVE TO WANT TO. (#608)

8. TEENS FIGHT TO "PROVE THEMSELVES" AND SHOW EVERYONE HOW TOUGH THEY ARE.

   MANY TEENS DON’T WANT TO LOOK WOOSY IN FRONT OF THEIR FRIENDS, AND THEN THEY FEEL AS THOUGH THEY HAVE TO BE MACHO AND FIGHT TO PROVE THEMSELVES (#413)

   I know for a fact that that is what happens in my school. People would rather be in a fight and get beat up than tell an adult or teacher. Because it would be worse for them if they told someone. (#650)

CHOICES ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER

1. COLLEGE IS COMING UP TOO FAST!!

2. IT IS STRESSFUL HAVING TO WORRY ABOUT YOUR GRADES, AND APPLICATIONS AND SATs AND EXTRA-CURRICULAR ACTIVITIES

   I agree (#313)
You are supposed to have your ACTs or SATs done and applications for college done and scholarship information done before you graduate, plus all the stresses of homework and work and friends on top of that {#323}

I agree {#342}

I also agree it is very stressful, and not a slacker senior year {#645}

3. JUNIORS HAVE TO WORRY ABOUT FINALS, THE SAT AND ACT, KEEPING THEIR GRADES, AND GETTING INTO THE NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY. THEY HAVE TO START LOOKING AT COLLEGES. I THINK JUNIORS AND SENIORS SHOULD NOT HAVE TO TAKE FINALS

Even though Juniors do have a stressful year at school, I think finals are necessary but should only help your grade. Things that one remembers over the whole semester should only be rewarded not bringing down your grade. It only only help you. {#312}

I agree with 312. We will need to know the things that we have learned throughout the year later on. Even though finals are stressful, we need to be able to take them and handle it. It is also good to have finals because we will have to take them in college and we are getting prepared for that by taking them now. {#327}

That is true, but our junior and senior years are supposed to prepare us for college {#329}

I definitely agree with taking finals. Although they are a pain, they are essential to help us learn. {#332}

Who actually enjoys taking finals {#427}

#332 How are they essential to helping us learn????? {#480}

4. I DON'T THINK OUR SCHOOLS FOCUS ENOUGH ON PREPARING US FOR THE REAL WORLD. I FEEL SO SHELTERED

I think that high schools should start block schedules. It would be better for learning because it is longer classes, but a teacher wouldn’t have to be cut off in the middle or at the end of lesson because the bell rang, they would have more time to focus on an issue brought up, instead of just skimming the surface of it because there was little time left {#344}

IT’S EXPECTED THAT WE STAY IN THE AREA IF WE WENT TO HIGH SCHOOL HERE, BUT THE AREA SIMPLY DOESN'T HAVE ENOUGH INTERESTING ITEMS FOR YOUNG ADULTS. {#686}

5. I AGREE WITH #4 BECAUSE WE LIVE IN FARGO, ND AND THE TEACHERS THINK WE DON'T NEED TO GET PREPARED

6. BUT THE TRUTH IS WE ARE GOING TO BE GETTING OUT OF HERE SOON, AND WE NEED TO BE AWARE OF THE KIND OF COMPETITION WE ARE GOING TO FACE

7. I'M LOOKING FORWARD TO COLLEGE, AND IT'S NOT REALLY THAT SCARY TO ME. I DO AGREE THOUGH THAT TEACHERS SOMETIMES DO TRY TO SHELTER US AND NOT REALLY TEACH US WHAT WE NEED TO KNOW. ALSO I AGREE PARTIALLY WITH FINAL EXAM EXEMPTIONS. I THINK IF YOU HAVE AN A FOR BOTH QUARTERS IN AN ELECTIVE COURSE, YOU SHOULDN'T HAVE TO TAKE A FINAL JUST BECAUSE THE SCHOOL BOARD REQUIRES THEM.

I agree with being exempted from finals if you have an A for both quarters. I think students would try harder in their classes. Some students have a hard time motivating themselves to do school work. If the school gave them something to work for it would improve academics importance in student’s lives. {#704}

8. I THINK A LOT OF PEOPLE NEED TO CONSIDER THE FUTURE MORE WHEN THEY ARE DOING THINGS THEY SHOULDN'T, OR WHEN THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT HOW THEY DO IN SCHOOL. A LOT OF TEENS THAT CAUSE TROUBLE THINK THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT THEIR FUTURE AND DON'T REALIZE THEY WON'T HAVE A GOOD ONE IF THEY CONTINUE

I agree--so many students think of the short term, failing to realize the big picture implications {#463}
9. IT WOULD BE NICE FOR A LOT OF PEOPLE IF EVEN MORE SCHOLARSHIPS WERE OFFERED BECAUSE I THINK A LOT OF TEENS DON'T CONSIDER COLLEGE CAUSE THEY KNOW THEY CAN'T AFFORD IT AND DON'T KNOW THE OPTIONS AVAILABLE FOR HELPING TO PAY FOR COLLEGE.

I don't know if I totally agree because a lot of students don't work hard enough to get those scholarships, money isn't free.

There are many many scholarships out there, but the circumstances for which you can apply are really discriminant. ie: parent's work in the military, must have at least 3.8, etc.

Many scholarships base their decisions on financial need, which is completely unfair to the kids who come from well-to-do houses but work really hard. Because these kids never get any of the scholarships.

It seems like to get a scholarship in this day and age you need to have a 4.0, be a 3 sport athlete, involved with music/drama, numerous other clubs, and volunteer at the nursing home every week!

10. WHAT YOU DO AS A TEEN TELLS YOU HOW YOU ARE GOING TO ACT AND BE FOR THE REST OF YOUR LIFE. IT IS A DECIDING TIME.

11. I THINK COLLEGE READINESS SHOULD BE A BIGGER PRIORITY FOR SCHOOLS

I think the Fargo schools should do more career things and show kids more career options than just the main ones like doctor, lawyer, businessman and others like that, we don't even know what's out there.

12. AT MY SCHOOL WE HAVE AN EXCELLENT CAREER CENTER THAT HELPS TO PREPARE YOU FOR YOUR FUTURE. I THINK THE SCHOOLS DO PLENTY TO HELP US, AND IT'S TIME WE STEP UP AND HELP OURSELVES AND NOT RELY ON OTHERS TO MAKE DECISIONS FOR US.

13. I KNOW THAT I HAVE HAD MANY DECISIONS ON WHERE I WANTED TO GO TO COLLEGE AND WHERE TO WORK AND WHAT FIELD I WANTED TO BE IN AND I REALLY HAVE NOT BEEN EXPOSED TO ANY OF IT SO I DON'T REALLY KNOW WHERE TO START.

14. THIS IS SUCH AN OVERWHELMING TIME, THERE IS SOOO MUCH PRESSURE FROM EVERYONE, PARENTS, TEACHERS, FRIENDS, I FEEL LOST IN THE JUMBLE OF APPLICATIONS AND OPTIONS

15. PEOPLE ENFORCE "PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE" SINCE ELEMENTRY SCHOOL SO IN THE LATE YEARS OF HIGH SCHOOL THERE IS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON DECIDING THE COLLEGE AND CAREER AS IT WILL DECIDE THE FUTURE FOR THEM

16. TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS NEVER SAY THAT IT'S OKAY FOR YOU TO NOT KNOW WHAT YOU'RE GOING TO DO WITH YOUR FUTURE. THEY NEED TO TELL YOU THAT IT'S OKAY NOT TO KNOW

17. A LOT OF TEENS DON'T FACE REALITY. THEY THINK THEY CAN COMPLETELY SLACK OFF IN HIGH SCHOOL, NOT ATTEND A COLLEGE OF ANY KIND, AND STILL MAKE IT IN THE WORLD. THEY ARE GOING TO END UP FLIPPING BURGERS AT MCDONALDS!

18. I THINK PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE IS VERY SCARY AND PUTS A LOT OF PRESSURE ON TEENS. WHEN YOU START HIGH SCHOOL YOU'RE THINKING TO YOURSELF ALL THE TIME THIS IS GOING ON MY RECORD THIS WILL DETERMINE HOW MY FUTURE IS GOING TO TURN OUT.

NOT ENOUGH PRIVILEGES

1. ALTHOUGH WE SHOULDN'T BE LET TOTALLY OFF THE LEASH, A LOT OF ADULTS STILL TREAT US LIKE THREE YEAR OLDS AND DON'T SEEM TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE GROWING UP
I agree. I don't think we get enough credit for being responsible because a lot of teens are very responsible. (#438)

In order to get more privileges we need to show more responsibility. (#618)

618-this is true but there's always the kids whose parents don't care and they abuse their privileges, thus the kids who don't have the privileges, don't get them (#680)

2. I THINK THAT TEENS DON'T REALLY CARE IF THEY CAN OR CANNOT DO SOMETHING, THEY ARE GOING TO DO IT ANY WAY

3. I THINK WE NEED TO SHOW THE COMMUNITY THAT WE ARE CAPABLE OF DOING MORE THINGS. MAYBE WE WILL BE RESPECTED TOO AND WE WILL EVENTUALLY GET MORE OPPORTUNITIES AND PRIVILEGES.

4. I DEFINITELY AGREE WITH #1. MY PARENTS STILL TREAT ME LIKE I'M 5. I HAVE NO PRIVILEGES. I DON'T THINK IT'S FAIR, I KNOW I'M ONE OF THE MOST RESPONSIBLE PEOPLE IN MY GRADE. I DON'T DRINK OR DO DRUGS. IT ALWAYS SEEMS LIKE THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND OR EVEN TRY TO UNDERSTAND. WE ARE CAPABLE OF MUCH MORE THAN THEY THINK.

Oh my gosh! I totally agree--my parents don't realize how much of an angel I am compared to the rest of my grade. The problem is I think they trust me for the most part, but they are so paranoid about other people's intentions (#382)

But I think I am mature and safe enough to when or when not to go and do something I know is wrong (#385)

5. I ALSO AGREE WITH #1. ADULTS DO NOT TREAT US FAIRLY. WE ARE GROWING UP AND THEREFORE WE DESERVE MORE PRIVILEGES. I ALSO DO NOT AGREE WITH THE CURFEW, I THINK IT SHOULD BE UP TO OUR PARENTS WHAT TIME WE COME HOME. 11 IS WAY TOO EARLY

6. IF YOU GO INTO PUBLIC PLACES/BUSINESSSES YOU'RE AUTOMATICALLY STEREOTYPED

Definitely, especially if you are waiting in a restaurant or need help in a store. (#641)

I also see it in stores, the employees see you there and automatically you're a shop lifter, so they follow u around the store pretending not to notice you. (#665)

Even the way that somebody dresses is something that they look at (#673)

7. I DISAGREE WITH NUMBER #1. MAYBE THE REASON THEY TREAT US YOUNGER, AND STEREOTYPE US, IS BECAUSE OF HOW WILD TEENS THESE DAYS ARE.

8. I AGREE WITH #5 CURFEW IS WAY TOO EARLY AND I THINK PARENTS WILL BE MORE LENIENT IF THEY KNOW THE CURFEW ISN'T SO EARLY

9. NO ONE SEEMS TO UNDERSTAND YOUTH THEY JUST WANT TO PUSH US TO THE SIDE AND WAIT FOR US TO GROW UP. AND THEY TREAT US LIKE LITTLE KIDS. WHICH WE ARE NOT!!

10. SOME ADULTS THINK THAT IF 1 TEEN IS BAD, THAN THE REST ARE TOO. IT'S NOT FAIR TO GET JUDGED JUST BECAUSE YOUR PEERS MAKE MISTAKES.

11. I THINK THAT A LOT OF PEOPLE NEED TO REALIZE THAT WE ARE STILL TEENAGERS, NOT ADULTS. YES WE SHOULD HAVE MORE PRIVILEGES FROM WHEN WE WERE 5, BUT WE DON'T NEED THE PRIVILEGES OF A 25 YEAR OLD EITHER. THE REASON THAT MOST KIDS DON'T SMOKE, DRINK, DO DRUGS, HAVE SEX ETC... IS BECAUSE THEIR PARENTS ARE STRICT. IT ISN'T REALLY THAT BIG OF A DEAL IF WE ARE ALLOWED TO SAY OUT UNTIL 4 A.M. ANYWAYS. THERE'S NOTHING TO DO. DOES STAYING OUT UNTIL ALL HOURS OF THE NIGHT REALLY MAKE US MATURE? THAT JUST PROVES HOW IMMATURE WE REALLY ARE. WE ARE DOING IT JUST BECAUSE EVERYONE ELSE IS DOING IT.

12. I KNOW THE COMMUNITY IT JUST TRYING TO LOOK OUT FOR US BUT WHY CAN'T WE STAY OUT AS LATE AS WE WANT?
RECKLESS DRIVING--NOT ONLY YOUTH

1. A LOT OF THE TIME PEOPLE DRIVE CRAZY TO SHOW OFF, AND ARE NOT ALWAYS DRUNK
   I don't think drunk driving is the issue, I think some teens just do it to show off. {#464}

2. EVERYONE THINKS THAT THE ONLY PEOPLE WHO DRINK ARE ATHLETES
   I agree because a lot of athletes stay away from it and don't do it at all because of their athletic events. {#337}
   People get put into categories like they automatically drink because they are an athlete {#345}
   I know many people who hate athletics that drink. {#350}
   I disagree that "everyone thinks that the only people who drink are athletes." I'm not an athlete and that's the exact opposite of what I think. True athletes are very focused on the game. {#448}
   I agree that true athletes would be more focused on the game, but I have to say that a larger majority of the athletes have drank or do drink regularly {#483}
   I AGREE WITH 448, WHEN I THINK OF PEOPLE WHO DRINK IT IS NOT THE ATHLETES BUT THE KIDS WHO ARE NOT INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES. THEY HAVE NOTHING ELSE TO DO. {#672}
   I totally disagree with this comment. I for one never even thought that, and a lot of people that I know don't think that the only people who drink are athletes. Granted they are the ones who always get caught, but every one knows that isn't true. People are just in a little box. {#706}

3. I THINK THIS IS A BIG PROBLEM AMONG TEENS BECAUSE IT IS CONSIDERED "COOL" TO DRIVE CRAZY, WHEN IT IS REALLY DANGEROUS.
   I agree, I had a friend caught going 116mph and lost his license {#358}
   Not just teens drive recklessly. I've noticed a lot more older people driving fast. {#371}
   Yes, I agree, I was just in an accident and the reason was because the teen in the other car was being very careless, probably because he THOUGHT it was cool. {#452}

4. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO DRIVE HIGH OR DRUNK. AND FEEL THEY ARE OKAY TO DRIVE. THERE ARE A LOT OF PEOPLE WHO HAVE FUZZ BUSTERS AND DRIVE VERY FAST IN RESIDENTIAL AREAS.

5. I AGREE WITH ALL THESE COMMENTS. ALSO, I HAVE HAD MANY PEOPLE TELL ME THAT IT'S SAFE TO DRIVE HIGH. THEY SAY THEY'RE MORE IN CONTROL OF THEIR ACTIONS AND IT'S NOT AT ALL LIKE DRIVING DRUNK. I SAY THEY JUST DON'T UNDERSTAND
   I have heard that too, and I definitely think it is totally WRONG!! I agree totally with you. {#459}

6. RECKLESS DRIVING IS POINTED TOWARDS TEENS- THIS IS AN UNFAIR ASSUMPTION THAT ALL RECKLESS DRIVERS
   Everyone has to pass the same road test so I don't understand why reckless driving is targeted to teens. All of the friends I know are pretty good drivers. On the other hand people that have been on the road for a long time tend to a lot more reckless at times. {#473}

7. THERE SHOULD NUMBERS TO CALL IF SOMEONES SEES A DRIVER DRIVING BAD, THEY SHOULD BE REPORTED AND STOPPED BY A COP, EVEN AFTER THE FACT

8. I REALLY DO NOT APPRECIATE HOW YOUTH ARE JUST CONSIDERED BAD DRIVERS. I DRIVE AND I CONSIDER IT A PRIVILEGE. BUT I THINK THAT ADULTS NEED TO BE MORE AWARE THEMSELVES AND TO STOP WORRYING SO MUCH ABOUT TEENS DRIVING. TEENS ARE NOT THE ONLY ONES WHO GET INTO CAR ACCIDENTS.

9. I KNOW I DON'T ALWAYS FEEL SAFE IN CARS WITH FRIENDS BECAUSE THEY TRY TO BE COOL AND DRIVE CRAZY.

10. A LOT OF RECKLESS DRIVING IS EITHER BECAUSE THE PERSON IS IN A HURRY, THEY'RE DRUNK, OR THEY'RE ANGRY
11. Elders also have some reckless driving that others should take notice too.

12. DWI's and DUI's in the area are too high, and mainly occur with adults. Tougher laws should be passed to solve this problem.

13. I think that it's not just teens who are reckless drivers. I mean, if you take any age group you're going to have some crazy drivers.

14. If someone chooses to drive recklessly, then they are just going to have to deal with the consequences, whether it's totaling your car, or getting injured.

FEAR OF BEING ABUSED PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY

1. There is still a lot of sexual harassment at our school today.

   This doesn't seem to be a big problem at our school {#284}

2. I would say that emotional harassment from teachers is non-existent, but I know that domestic abuse is still prevalent.

   Explain {#289}

   Yes, please. {#353}

   I'm not sure I understand this statement, but if it's saying that teachers don't emotionally abuse their students then I strongly disagree. Teachers have an enormous amount of influence over us and when they say hurtful things or put us down it hurts just as much, if not more, as if one of our peers were to say it. Plus, it's often said in front of the class which can be very embarrassing. {#697}

3. There are people who seem to get their kicks out of physically and mentally abusing and hurting people, and that just isn't right.

   I think the only reason they do that is because they do not feel good about themselves. {#343}

   I agree. {#378}

4. Being mentally abused is a problem faced by teens in school today.

   I think that teens think they have to be the best in everything that they do and when they aren't, they get hurt. {#398}

5. I would say mental and emotional abuse is a much greater problem now than physical abuse is. Sometimes I don't think people even know they are being mentally abused. They just know that they're hurting. It takes a while for them to come to that kind of realization.

6. I think this is the cause of a lot of depression. People physically and mentally abuse people to make themselves look better and also because they have nothing better to do.

7. I totally agree with number 5, mental and emotional abuse is a lot higher then physical.

8. I also agree with #7 the emotional and mental abuse is higher and more affective then physical.

9. I think that there should be help, openly or anonymously, for people who are suffering any type of abuse. It is a traumatic thing that affects the rest of peoples lives. Especially mental abuse.

10. I believe that a lot of people have fear when it comes to school. Whether it be with the opposite sex or with "popular people".

11. I think a lot of people fear standing up for themselves to the popular kids because they are afraid of getting beat up.
12. PEOPLE AT MY SCHOOL GET MENTALLY ABUSED ALL THE TIME. I DON'T THINK THE "ABUSERS" KNOW THAT THEY ARE HURTING/ABUSING THEM. THIS COULD BE A CAUSE OF SUICIDE.

13. I THINK IT IS OUR RESPONSIBILITY IF WE SEE ABUSE TAKING PLACE, TO ADDRESS IT APPROPRIATELY AND NOT IGNORE IT,,, MAYBE THERE NEEDS TO BE A BETTER WAY FOR KIDS TO HELP OTHER KIDS....ANY IDEAS?

14. I AGREE WITH 12, A LOT OF TIMES THE TEASING AND ABUSE IS WHAT IS CONSIDERED FUNNY AND COMMON TO SOME PEOPLE, THEY DON'T EVEN REALIZE THE IMPACT THEY ARE MAKING AND THE HARM THEY ARE DOING...USUALLY THESE PEOPLE ARE HURTING OR LONELY THEMSELVES.

CONSERVATIVE THOUGHTS AROUND THE AREA,

1. THIS AREA IS FULL OF CONSERVATIVE THOUGHTS. THE YOUTH OF TODAY IN FARGO IS NOT EXPOSED TO ANYTHING LIBERAL OR NEW.

That isn't necessarily a bad thing though. And we are in a sense exposed to liberal things. For instance we have gays and lesbians in the Fargo/Moorhead area. There is nothing wrong with being a little conservative, it's a good thing, and we should be thankful that Fargo/Moorhead is still a little on the conservative side. (#601)

I AGREE W/ #601. THE AREA THRIVES AND ACCENTS ALL THE "NEW" LIBERALISM THAT SPROUTS UP IN PUBLICATIONS LIKE THE FORUM AND THE HIGH PLAINS READER AS BEING A "NEW WAY OF THINKING". (#649)

No way, I completely disagree. There are many gays/lesbians who do not come out of the closet in this area, because they would be taunted. Until we can stop using demonstrative language such as "gay, homo, faggot, etc" they will never feel safe. Also what about other cultures? There was a beating not too long ago at NDSU that was culturally motivated and that is just wrong. (#670)

2. FARGO IS VERY CONSERVATIVE WITH CHRISTIANITY, NOT THAT THAT IS BAD, BUT SOMETIMES IT IS TAKEN TO AN EXTREME, AND ANYONE WHO IS DIFFERENT SEEMS TO HAVE PROBLEMS, THERE IS ALSO THAT SAME PROBLEM WITH OTHER RACES BESIDE CAUCASION, AND ALSO WITH GAY PEOPLE. IN THE REAL WORLD THERE ARE THESE PEOPLE, AND YOU CAN'T ALWAYS JUDGE THEM

I agree. That is very true. (#410)

It's true that judging people is wrong, but I don't see it as that big of a problem in Fargo. It seems that it is very seldom that any discriminatory action ever occurs. I don't think that conservative Christianity is really taken to an extreme (#603)

I MUST SAY THAT FARGO IS VERY CHRISTIAN AND THERE IS VERY LITTLE KNOWLEDGE OF ANY OTHER CULTURE (#478)

It's possible to still accept the people (#629)

MAINLY CHRISTIAN, CAUSE BOTH INCREASED PREACHED MORALITY BUT ALSO CREATES IGNORANCE (#195)

People can be (#636)

There must be standards. People can still be loved and accepted and their actions not condoned. This region does have a rich christian heritage. Our country was founded on the principles of the Bible and God's laws. I believe that still needs to be the standard. There is absolute truth found in the Bible, and that needs to be acknowledged. (#654)

Our country was founded on Christian principles! (#677)

3. THERE IS THIS THING AT MY SCHOOL CALLED FCA WHICH STANDS FELLOWSHIP FOR CHRISTIAN ATHLETES

THAT GROUP MAKES IT SOUND LIKE NO OTHER RELIGION BESIDES CHRISTIANS ARE ACCPETED--AND IS 100% WRONG TO DO!! (#486)
THE GROUP DOES NOT SAY THAT NO OTHER RELIGION IS ACCEPTED. IT IS JUST A GROUP OF CHRISTIANS THAT GET TOGETHER FOR FELLOWSHIP TO BUILD EACH OTHER UP IN THEIR FAITH. THEY DO ACCEPT OTHER RELIGIONS. {#540}

I DON'T THINK HAVING THINGS LIKE FCA IS WRONG. IT IS A VERY LARGE PART OF OUR SOCIETY. I THINK THAT WE SHOULD LEARN AND BE EXPOSED TO MANY OTHER THINGS AS WELL THOUGH, {#492}

I would love to have a Fellowship of Muslim Athletes, or a Fellowship of Jewish Athletes, or even a Fellowship of Buddhist Athletes, but simply these are minorities, and if those people who have those religions are not willing to stand up for themselves, it is hard to see whether or not, and where they have problems. {#693}

4. I THINK THE COMMUNITY IS CONSERVATIVE BUT IT SEEMS THAT PEOPLE THAT ARE MORE LIBERAL MAKE FUN AND TREAT THEM AS THOUGH NONE OF THEIR IDEAS ARE RIGHT AND BECAUSE THEY ARE CONSERVATIVE THAT THEY ARE WRONG. IF YOU SAY WE MUST BE OPEN TO EVERY GROUP YOU MUST BE OPEN TO CONSERVATIVES TOO

5. I THINK THAT OUR COMMUNITY IS VERY CONSERVATIVE, LOOK AT THE IMMIGRANTS, HOMOSEXUALS, AND DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND HOW THEY'RE ACCEPTED IN OUR COMMUNITY...NOT VERY WELL

When you say, immigrants, homosexuals, and different religions aren't accepted very well, where do you get that from. {#643}

I don't think it’s fair to equate conservativism with intolerance. There is a right and a wrong, and it’s not intolerant to say so (applying to issues, not people). {#671}

I agree with the idea I think our community should be more accepting...but they aren't...that's one of the down sides of our community. {#688}

6. I DON'T THINK OUR COMMUNITY IS HAPPY ABOUT ADAPTING TO OTHER CULTURES AND OR THE WAY PEOPLE ARE, SUCH AS HOMOSEXUALS

Why are people homosexual? {#633}

7. WELL SAID #6, I ALSO FEEL THAT IF WE WANT TO BE SO OPEN TO ALL RACES, SEXUAL PREFERENCES, ETC, YOU NEED TO BE ABLE TO ACCEPT AND NOT PUT DOWN THE OBVIOUS CHRISTIAN MORALS OUR COMMUNITY HOLDS

Often, it seems the only religion being spoken out against is Christianity. Prayer and Bible reading have been banned from our schools and public places. I think that is pretty unfair treatment from those who demand fair treatment being given to all. {#691}

8. IS IT POSSIBLE THAT NON-CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS ARE WRONG?

9. #8, IS IT ALSO POSSIBLE THAT CHRISTIAN RELIGIONS ARE WRONG?

I think it's very very unlikely that Christianity is wrong {#683}

There are historical and eye witness accounts to prove the validity of Christianity. {#700}

IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE

1. I THINK THAT PROBLEMS START RIGHT AT HOME, AND KIDS JUST AREN'T GETTING THE BEST TREATMENT. YOU CAN TELL THE PROBLEM-KIDS HAVE A HARD TIME AT HOME. THEY ARE GOING TO END UP EXACTLY LIKE THEIR PARENTS BECAUSE THEY DON'T KNOW THE DIFFERENCE. A GOOD UP-BRINGING IS WHAT IS NEEDED.

Totally {#487}

Unfortunately, most of the time teens get in to trouble and start to do bad things because of their parents' lack of parenting skills. {#543}

2. I DON'T THINK SOME PARENTS REALIZE HOW MUCH OF AN IMPACT THEY HAVE ON THEIR CHILDREN. FOR INSTANCE ALCOHOL ABUSE. SOME ADULTS DRINK TOO MUCH AND YET
STILL THINK THAT THEIR CHILDREN SHOULDN'T BUT THEY DON'T GIVE A VERY GOOD IMAGE TO YOUTH.

3. PARENTS INVOLVED IN THEIR KIDS LIVES DO MAKE A DIFFERENCE. IF CHILDREN ARE LOVED AND CARED FOR A LOT THERE ARE STUDIES TO PROVE THAT THEY WILL DO BETTER IN SCHOOL AND GET IN LESS TROUBLE

4. FROM PERSONAL EXPERIENCE I CAN SAY THAT PARENTAL GUIDANCE PLAYS A HUGE PART IN SHAPING THE CHILD FOR WHAT KIND OF PERSON THEY'RE GOING TO BE

5. THE MORALS AND STANDARDS OUR SOCIETY AND BY RESULT, OUR COUNTRY, SET ARE THE RESULTS OF WHAT CHILDREN ARE TAUGHT AT HOME. WE CANNOT EXPECT CHILDREN TO MODEL GOOD BEHAVIOR AND STANDARDS IF THEY'VE NEVER SEEN THE WAY IT SHOULD BE DONE.

6. ULTIMATELY THIS IS THE ONLY SOLUTION FOR EVERY ISSUE ON THIS LIST

7. I TOTALLY AGREE WITH #6!! A LOT OF TEENS THAT INVOLVE THEMSELVES IN HIGH RISK BEHAVIOR (DRUGS, ALCOHOL, SEX) DON'T HAVE PARENTS TO TALK TO.

8. PARENTAL GUIDANCE IS VERY IMPORTANT. THE WORST THING THAT PARENTS CAN SAY IS "DO WHAT I SAY NOT WHAT I DO." PARENTS DON'T UNDERSTAND HOW IT IS SO IMPORTANT TO SET A PRECEDENT OF HOW TO ACT. THEY TELL US HOW WE SHOULD ACT OR WHAT WE SHOULD DO, BUT IF THEY DON'T DO IT, HOW ARE WE EVER GOING TO DO IT. AND WHAT I REALLY DON'T UNDERSTAND IS WHEN THEY THINK THAT THEY CAN GET US IN TROUBLE FOR DOING SOMETHING THAT THEY NEVER DO ANYWAYS. NO ONE LIKES HYPOCRITES, AND THAT IS WHAT A LOT OF PARENTS ARE.

   I definitely agree...parents need to enforce their kids and encourage them...people look up to their parents more then they know (#701)

9. I THINK THAT IT ISN'T ONLY PARENTAL GUIDANCE BUT GUIDANCE FROM ADULTS THROUGH YOUR CHILDHOOD. PARENTS AND ADULTS MUST TEACH KIDS THE DIFFERENCE BETWEEN RIGHT AND WRONG EARLY ON OR IT COULD CAUSE PROBLEMS. CHILDREN ABSORB EVERYTHING AND ADULTS HAVE TO REALIZE THAT. WHAT THEY LEARN IN THEIR EARLY LIFE SHAPES THEIR PERSONALITY, OUTLOOK, AND PERSEVERANCE.
## Youth Issues (Vote)

### Voting Results

- **10-Point Scale (Allow bypass)**
- Number of ballot items: 13
- Total number of voters (N): 36

### Mean

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Ballot Items in Original Order

1. TEEN DEPRESSION
2. SUBSTANCE ABUSE
3. EATING DISORDERS
4. NOTHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS
5. TEEN SEXUALITY
6. TEEN PRESSURE/ACCEPTANCE
7. FIGHTS
8. CHOICES ABOUT COLLEGE AND CAREER
9. NOT ENOUGH PRIVILEGES
10. RECKLESS DRIVING--NOT ONLY YOUTH
11. FEAR OF BEING ABUSED PHYSICALLY AND MENTALLY
12. CONSERVATIVE THOUGHTS AROUND THE AREA,
13. IMPORTANCE OF PARENTAL GUIDANCE
Facilitated by: GDC, NDSU

Key Needs and Where To Go (Categorizer)

KEY NEEDS OF FARGO YOUTH

MORE SPECIFIED CLASSES RELATED TO CAREER INTERESTS

1. THERE SEEMS TO ONLY BE CAREER CLASSES FOR MEDICAL INTERESTS, AND MAYBE GRAPHIC DESIGN

   What about English classes (develops authors, teachers) or law classes, business classes, accounting, computer classes etc. {#529}

   One must remember that these classes are there because the interest is there and the budget of the school system allows it {#532}

2. IN SO MANY COLLEGES YOU FIND OTHERE STUDENTS WHO HAVE GONE TO PREP HIGH SCHOOLS MORE PREPARED IN THEIR CAREER FIELD OF INTEREST

3. I THINK PEOPLE FROM HERE FEEL THAT THEY ARE AT THE BACK OF THE LINE WHEN THEY GET TO COLLEGE----WE SHOULD HAVE MORE SPECIFIED CLASSES FOR BUSINESS AND ADVERTISING AND MANAGEMENT

   I agree. There are so many fields I'm interested in that my school doesn't offer. {#450}

   I don't think that our schools prepare us enough for the "big world". Yes, we need English, Math, History, but we also need to have more classes that are going to help us in the future. {#466}

   446.I strongly agree {#560}

4. IN SMALL TOWNS WE DON'T HAVE AS MANY CLASSES OFFERED, AS BIGGER TOWNS, AND WE CAN LACK CLASSES NEEDED FOR COLLEGES THAT YOU COULD GET IN A BIGGER TOWN OR PREP SCHOOL

   I definitely agree...just look at the twin cities and all the different courses that they offer...if they want to attract more people to the community they need to make it more appealing,...including the school district {#554}

   The size of town truly does make a differences in the classes offered its no fair! {#690}

   That's true, but we aren't that small of a city, of course not as big as Minneapolis but we aren't that small {#707}

5. I DON'T THINK STUDENTS ALWAYS REALIZE THE COURSES THAT ARE OFFERED. MANY TIMES WE HAVE SIMILAR CLASSES TO THE ONES IN THE BIG SCHOOLS, BUT WE DON'T REALIZE THEY'RE THE SAME.

   I disagree, I think the school systems do a good job of sending out course descriptions and plans for your career opportunities {#545}

   I agree. I think that students need to know more about what is offered. Have older students or alumni come in and help students in choosing their courses based on their experiences. {#567}

   That is a very good idea {#713}

6. I KNOW I WOULD APPRECIATE SOMEONE COMING IN AND TELLING ME ABOUT DIFFERENT CAREERS.

   I agree the community should have internships and the school should tell us about the careers and what schools focus on which one so we don't have to try to figure out what careers they're by ourselves {#542}

   This would maybe help prevent kids in college from constantly switching majors and costing extra money {#714}

   Exactly {#722}
7. I THINK THAT IT IS VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW ABOUT WHAT YOU WANT TO GO INTO. MANY PEOPLE GO INTO CAREERS NOT REALLY SURE OF WHAT IS EXPECTED FROM THEM. I THINK THAT A CLASS LIKE THIS IS REALLY IMPORTANT AND WOULD REALLY BENEFIT THE COMMUNITY.

I think it would be cool to have an independent study class where a teacher is there but you make up your own class. You could study the field you are interested in and do mock projects of what you would really do in the field. If you did it with a group of people you could even get more done. It could be called a career class and at the end of the semester or year you could present your project to the class so the entire class could learn about your chosen field. I know they do this at colleges during January if they have the month off. It would be similar to that. (#704)

8. I THINK WE DO NOT ALWAYS KNOW WHAT IS INVOLVED IN THE CAREER WE WOULD BE GETTING INTO, IN WOULD DEFINITELY HELP IF WE HAD SOMEONE COME IN AND TELL US ABOUT SOME CAREERS

A PLACE FOR YOUTH TO GO

1. A CONFIDENTIAL PLACE TO GO WHERE TEENS CAN TALK, AND DISCUSS THEIR PROBLEMS.

I think we need some of those and that they should be easily accessible. (#346)

That's a good idea (#347)

A lot of teens would like to have someone to talk to, or somewhere to go where it is TOTALLY confidential, but it's hard for us to trust the confidentiality of people. (#348)

I agree. Some churches have youth groups for teens to go and hang out and talk, but we don't have any for the Fargo youth community. (#352)

We need some place like that (#356)

Like school counselors for example. They have to under contract report any physical abuse don't they? Well that's not confidential then. (#361)

But that's to help the person though, NOBODY wants to be abused. (#380)

But that is why some teens are afraid to get help, because they know somebody will find out (#428)

Don't the counselors have to sign something that says their confidential though? (#439)

Talking to counselors is not very comfortable to me. I would be more comfortable talking to other youth. (#484)

ANONYMOUS HELP THROUGH MENTORS DEALING WITH ISSUES SUCH AS DEPRESSION, ABUSE, SUBSTANCES, EATING DISORDERS, ETC. (#303)

I agree. (#349)

I agree as well, even though we have substance abuse counselors at school, people are scared to go to those as well as embarrassed. (#371)

A PLACE TO GO VOLUNTARILY FOR SUBSTANCE ABUSE, ETC. (#304)

2. PLACES WHERE YOUTH PROVIDE THE ENTERTAINMENT. LIKE "IMPROV" SHOWS AND BANDS.

I agree (#563)

3. MORE CLUBS IN GENERAL.

I think if you honestly want to find a club to participate in you can find one. (#372)

I agree (#396)

There are plenty out there. And if you want a particular one, take initiative! Go see if there is someone who would supervise it and try to get it out there! (#398)
FARGO NEEDS MORE CLUBS FOR JUST HIGH SCHOOL KIDS. THAT ARE CHEAP TO GET IN AND ARE FUN. {#418}
There have been many clubs that were directed at teens and have failed. I think it is our responsibility to make them fun. {#569}

4. MORE PLACES FOR TEENS TO HANG OUT AND HAVE FUN WITHOUT ALCOHOL.
I agree. {#365}
That would be very nice. {#374}
That'd be cool to have! {#401}
I think that there are plenty of places. I think that students just don't want to spend the time looking for them, maybe they should be advertised more. {#406}
A PLACE WHERE NOBODY CARES ABOUT YOUR POPULARITY. {#310}
INTERNATIONAL MUSIC CAMP IS A GOOD PLACE FOR THAT {#354}
That'd be cool, some place where no one knows who you are, but you can make friends with other people whom you have never met before. {#415}

5. SOMEWHERE TO GO FOR YOUTH WHO FEEL ESTRANGED FROM OTHER YOUTH REGARDING RACE, SEXUALITY, SOCIAL STATUS, ETC.

6. LOWER PRICES ON ADMISSION FOR CLUBS AND RECREATION CENTERS...MORE TEENS WILL BE ABLE TO PARTICIPATE IN THOSE KINDS OF ACTIVITIES.
I agree with this idea. A lot of teens do not have the money to go to expensive places. I think if the clubs became free admission they would be a lot more beneficial. {#351}
I think so too. Teens are always short on money and need places to go. I think there should at least be discounts for teens. If we had clubs specifically for teens that were inexpensive, a lot of teens would be involved. {#386}
I agree, if we could go somewhere to do what we love to do and didn't have to give up our weeks worth of money to it, there would be a lot more involvement {#420}

7. THERE SHOULD BE SOMEWHERE WHERE FREE TREATMENT FOR ABUSE PROBLEMS.
I don't think this is a realistic idea. Everything costs money, the person going there would have to help out in some way. {#350}
I agree with #350 {#422}

8. A PLACE TO HELP THOSE TEENS THAT BECOME PREGNANT ESPECIALLY IF THEY DECIDE TO HAVE THE BABY AND CAN'T DEAL WITH THE PRESSURE OF THE PEOPLE AROUND THEM

9. I WOULD LIKE A PLACE TO GO AND EAT THAT IS MAINLY JUST TEENS, LIKE A DINER, AND MAYBE SOME TELEVISIONS, WHERE KIDS CAN JUST GO EAT AND HANG OUT. I KNOW PERKINS, MOXIE JAVA, AND MEXICAN VILLAGE ARE POPULAR PLACES FOR TEENS TO GO.
I strongly agree and kids won't get into too much trouble and the restaurants would like the business. {#389}
That would be nice. It would be cool if they could just be a hangout, too. {#391}
That is a good idea. At like the other restaurants you have to worry too much about bothering other people so I think it would be good because you would be around people who don't care {#425}
Absolutely, that would be popular, I think with a lot of teens. I think that that would be a good community thing to do. {#430}
I THINK THAT WOULD BE COOL, IF IT ACTUALLY HAPPEND {#445}
Ya! Great idea! {#491}
That is such a good idea! You're so smart!! {#499}
Yes!! {#506}
Yeah I mean that's where most teens that don't "party" spend they're time anyway {#584}

10. A PLACE WHERE IT DOESN'T MATTER WHAT SIDE OF TOWN YOU ARE FROM.

I don't think that there is really an issue between friends from different schools. I think where that rumor comes from is that some students don't know where to meet students from other schools. {#417}

I don't think it's a big issue either, but if less problems come up maybe it is better if some places tend to be separated. {#434}

SOME TIMES THE RIVAL BETWEEN SOUTH AND NORTH IS BIG. FOR INSTANCE I LIVE ON THE SOUTH SIDE BUT TOOK DRIVERS ED AT NORTH. I WAS CALLED "SOUTH SIDER" AND THE SOUTH WAS DISSED.

AT MY SCHOOL WE ARGUE OVER WHICH IS BETTER NORTH OR SOUTH {#438}

I am from north and have made really really good friends with people at south. I am sorry you are treated that way, but I think that overall our schools get along, there are just a few students that need to look at their behavior from both schools. {#455}

I think that it really doesn't matter which side of town you are from, people from both schools can still be friends. The main reason why there is a rival between schools is sports (which side of town is better) {#551}

WHEN I READ THE COMMENTS LIKE NUMBER 14, I HATE TO SAY IT, BUT THAT'S JUST AN IDOLIZED PLACE. THE ONLY WAY SOMEWHERE LIKE THAT CAN BE CREATED IS BY OUR OWN ACTIONS, AND THE ACTIONS OF OTHERS. WE SHOULD START BEING EXAMPLES. {#446}

True!! Be a leader! {#464}

That's true. North and South people are extremely rude to each other and act irrationally and illogically against each other at times!!! It's time we matured, and realized that being friendly rivals is one thing, but being enemies is completely another. You can be rivals WITHOUT the rudeness. {#473}

I think the parents really get involved with this whole rivalry thing as well, by putting so much pressure on the kids to achieve athletic success. {#589}

I think the people that are making of fun of people from other school or don't like people from other schools....really don't like anyone. They are probably the same people that are mean to people in our school. {#596}

I disagree, I myself have many friends from North and see many North -South friendships and parties. The only time I see a "rudeness" would actually be in and during the athletic event. And that's because they are your competition at the time, and when they get off the field, they are friends. {#601}

601 I definitely agree with you! I have seen the same thing, where it is just at the sporting event, that one side chants one thing and the other side another thing. But after that I don't really think that it goes beyond that. So I totally agree with you on that one. {#654}

11. I THINK IT WOULD BE COOL TO HAVE A PLACE THAT IS RUN MAINLY BY TEENS. IT WOULD BE FOR TEENS TO HANG OUT, TALK, EAT, AND DO ACTIVITIES.

I agree with you, a place where there is no pressure from anyone, where teens can even work as a waiter or waitress, etc. This would also provide more enjoyable jobs for teens. {#426}

A PLACE FOR YOUTH TO SPEND TIME WITH YOUTH. {#302}

That would be a great idea...if the community leaders would go for it and we can {#577}

There would need to be a lot of supervision though. {#604}

Maybe the community leaders could organize a group of teens to plan a place for teens to go and hang out. They could have a cafe to go during the supper hour and then they could clear that away and make it into a dance floor at night. During the day it could also be used by adults and then at night when kids were out of school it could be used by teens {#609}
I really don't think that idea would go very well with youth. I think youth have gotten a certain picture of what a Friday night or Saturday night is supposed to be and they will not break it. Plus I think it will cause cliques to be more noticed. {#624}

12. WE NEED TO HAVE MORE ALL-CITY DANCES!! THEY RAISE LOTS OF MONEY AND ARE FUN!

More dances {#516}

More dance classes {#519}

There are SO many dance classes offered in the area, Valley, Red River, Messiah, Carousel, Bonney Haney, Camria...you just have to try them all and see which one fits you best. {#539}

539..I agree I'm a dancer and I know that they're are plenty of dance studios..dance clubs on the other hand...there aren't {#570}

The all city dance wasn't all that fun..but i went anyway because it supported a good cause {#574}

I AGREE {#576}

#574 Watch what you say...my friend organized it and she did a very wonderful job. She put a lot of work into it! {#580}

I know...I thought that it was organized great and a lot of time and hard work went into it...but the reason why so many people went wasn’t for the fun but to support the cause {#594}

13. WE NEED MORE THEATRES AND ALL THESE IDEAS ARE GREAT, I REALLY LIKE THE IDEA OF SOME KIND OF CLUB TO GO AND HANGOUT. THESE PLACES ARE COMMON IN THE CITIES, BUT OUR COMMUNITY SORELY LACKS AN OUTLET LIKE THIS

MORE ART PROGRAMS.

1. THERE ARE PLENTY OF ART PROGRAMS, BUT THEY ARE NOT ADVERTISED ENOUGH

Very true {#383}

I agree. We have opportunities, but not many people know about them, especially teens. There should be a way to get more people involved and more advertising should be done. {#462}

I highly agree, every night there is some sort of art thing going on weather it be music, or art shows or whatever, if people want to do stuff with art, they just gotta look a little harder and discover all the stuff that's happening in our community {#679}

ADVERTISING WOULD HELP, BUT MORE PERFORMING ARTS CATERING TO TEENAGE AUDIENCES SHOULD BE CREATED. {#712}

Performing arts cannot be brought in to the area because people will not pay the expensive tickets to see them. There are numerous shows in the FM area already that cannot be supported because hardly anyone goes to them. Bringing in different performing arts groups from around the country/globe costs a lot of money and the FM area is too pensive to pay the price. {#732}

2. ART IS AN IMPORTANT EMOTIONAL OUTLET BUT THERE SEEMS TO BE VERY LITTLE FUNDING FOR IT

True, sometimes arts and theatre are not funded enough as sports. Although I am more of an athlete, I sympathize with the teens whose programs are not very funded. {#379}

If there is not as many people involved in the arts as sports the funding should go to the sports, in my opinion {#395}

But if we just start ignoring the students who are involved in the arts than where will the arts go in the future?? It will not expand at all!! We need to recognize the minority, not ignore them!! I agree with 379 {#437}

If we say ignore the minority of art-directed kids, then what kind of message is that saying about accepting kids of different ethnic backgrounds? {#665}
Our school recently started an Art Club. It already has over 50 members. The school is paying them to do art related projects around the school. At the end of the year they are going on a trip to Chicago. (#676)

3. I DON'T THINK THAT SHOULD BE REQUIRED FOR GRADUATING. IT IS NOT FAIR TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT ARTISTIC. ALL ART DOES FOR THEM IS LOWER THEIR GPA

I think you are correct when saying this, but art shouldn't be based on your talent, it should be based on how hard you try. (#399)

Right on (#441)

Physical education is required for graduation and not everyone is athletic. I do agree with #339 though. Trying, experimenting, and learning are the important goals. It's simply to give and gain experience. (#597)

At our school art is not required. We do have to have electives but not everything is art there are other choices (#682)

I agree, certain amounts of the graduation credits should go to arts whether it be music, or painting, etc. This way people can get more out of the opportunities their schools have to offer (#719)

4. THERE REALLY DOES NEED TO BE MORE ARTS PROGRAMS OF ALL KINDS INCLUDING THE PERFORMING ARTS, AND THE SYSTEM NEEDS TO STOP PUTTING ALL THE SPORTS FIRST BECAUSE ART IS JUST AS IMPORTANT AS SPORTS

That happens because the sports bring about their own activities, so the artists need to too. (#523)

5. THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE MUSIC RELATED THINGS GOING ON IN THE COMMUNITY.

I think Fargo has a fair number of music activities going on in the community, but you need to get out there and look for them. Trollwood has many music festivals in the summer. Also MANY coffee shops offer entertainment on certain nights. The significant amount of colleges in the area also offer music opportunities to us. (#662)

I definitely agree with 662, there is always stuff going on. You just have to know where to look and don't be afraid to call people/places (#706)

Try the Forum's highlights on Thursdays, they give a description of Thurs., Fri, Sat, and Sun activities some of them are bogus, but some are really good. Trentino's always has music on Thurs as well. (#746)

6. CONTEMPORARY MUSIC OR SIMPLY A STRONGER EMPHASIS ON MUSIC SHOULD BE BROUGHT INTO HIGH SCHOOL CURRICULUM.

7. ATHLETICS ARE HIGHLY VALUED IN OUR COMMUNITY. I THINK THE ARTS (THEATRE, MUSIC, ETC) SHOULD BE GIVEN A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AS WELL.

I agree (#606)

I agree...it seems like that is all that the school and community focuses on and not the arts except for the summer program Trollwood but even that doesn't get as much recognition as it should (#614)

True but who put the value on the athletics? (#687)

True, even our school when making budget cuts took a much larger chunk of funding out of its music department but not as much out of our athletic department. We even got a brand new fully equipped weight room yet there isn't enough funding for the band to go on one trip or competition. Athletes travel all the time for games and other events. It has to start with the school as to where the emphasis of value goes. (#697)

I agree, athletic programs should be cut when budgets are short instead of art programs because the arts have proven more beneficial in the long run. Who put the value on athletics? Competition did, I think there should be more competition in music and other arts especially jazz (#701)

There are a lot more people in music then there are in athletics, music programs just don't make as much money (#737)
8. I TOTALLY AGREE WITH #7 ATHLETICS IS VALUED A LOT AND SOMETIMES THERE ISN’T ENOUGH ATTENTION GOING TOWARDS THE ARTS
   Right on! {#612}

9. BY LOOKING AT THE MAJORITY OF OUR HOUSES AND THEIR ARCHITECTURE, YOU CAN TELL WE LACK CREATIVE STIMULATION HERE, THE FM AREA NEEDS MORE CULTURE, STARTING WITH MORE MUSIC DIVERSITY ACTIVITIES, MORE FOCUS ON ART AND INDIVIDUALISM AND LESS OF THE FOCUS ALWAYS BEING ON SPORTS.
   I agree {#689}

10. FM IS A TERRIBLE PLACE TO LIVE FOR A THRIVING PERFORMING ARTIST
   I disagree, while places like Chicago and New York are more exciting, the FM area is a great place to live (if you’re an adult) many great performing artists come here to teach because we’re so musically talented {#691}
   THIS IS SO TRUE. MORE OPPORTUNITIES NEED TO BE MADE FOR THE PERFORMER {#694}
   I DISAGREE W/ #691 BECAUSE THIS IS ONLY TRUE OF TRADITIONAL ARTS. CONTEMPORARY ARTS SHOULD BE EMPHASIZED. {#699}
   I agree, most people have to move away if they want their dreams to come true {#747}

11. DIFFERENT TYPES OF ART ARE VERY IMPORTANT TO KNOW. IT DEVELOPS DIFFERENT PARTS OF YOUR BRAIN AND IF YOU LIKE MUSIC ART, YOU NORMALLY DO BETTER IN SCHOOL. I THINK THAT HAVING AN ART PROGRAM WOULD BE VERY IMPORTANT FOR DEVELOPING TEENS MINDS AND WAY OF THINKING.

A YOUTH BOARD TO ADDRESS THESE ISSUES ALONE.

1. A YOUTH BOARD SHOULD BE CREATED IN EACH SCHOOL THAT IS SEPARATE FROM THE STUDENT COUNCIL. THIS GROUP SHOULD BE ABLE TO ADDRESS ALL ISSUES CONCERNING THE SCHOOL AND BE CHOSEN BY A COMBINATION OF TEACHERS AND STUDENTS.
   That's a great idea {#368}
   Yes I think this should happen. In some schools the student council doesn't have very much of a say, so this would have to have a large say in things. {#382}
   The youth board could discuss matters and bring these matters to the student council. Or all youth boards from all schools could combine they're problems and discuss them all together. {#400}
   400- I agree. It would be cool for the schools to interact more. Sometimes the schools are separated and this would be a way for them to get together and not worry about what team you play for or what activities you are in. Teens around the area all have similar problems and it would be good if we could share them with other schools, not just our own. {#479}
   I think a board made up of teacher picked teens would be awesome, sometimes student council is just popularity. {#521}
   I agree, this is a good idea and would give students more in-put at their school. {#538}
   I agree with 521, popularity is almost always the case why people get on student council or class president. This way the right kids would get picked to make the right decisions, the only draw back could be the teacher’s pets getting on the board {#591}

2. ADD A BOARD MADE UP OF YOUTH LEADERS THAT DISCUSS ISSUES.
   If we have a board like this, we will need diversity in the members so we can get different views of the youth and reach out to those that need our help. {#478}

3. IF THERE WOULD BE A YOUTH BOARD, IT SHOULD NOT HAVE ALL OF THE SAME PEOPLE ALL OF THE TIME BECAUSE YOU MIGHT JUST GET PERSONAL IDEAS, YOU NEED MORE DIVERSITY
4. I THINK A JOINT GROUP OF ADULTS AND YOUTH WOULD BE MORE EFFECTIVE----THE YOUTH DON’T HAVE MUCH POWER TO IMPLEMENT ANYTHING AND DONT KNOW THE PROCESS OF IMPLEMENTATION

   I agree...how do we know that what we say is going to be put in effect...we don't...we just hope that our opinions count..but we never know if they do {#623}

5. KEEPING THE SAME BOARD HOWEVER CREATES A DEVELOPMENT OF TRUST BETEWEEN EVERYONE AND YOU MAY GET MORE HONEST IDEAS.

6. I THINK IF A YOUTH BOARD COULD GET THEIR IDEA’S ACROSS TO ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY IT WOULD BE SUCCESSFUL.

7. I AM GLAD THAT WE ARE DOING THIS ACTIVITY HERE TODAY, THAT’S A GREAT FIRST STEP, WE NEED TO DEVELOP MORE YOUTH DIRECTED DECISIONS AND INPUT TEAMS SOON, I THINK THIS IS VERY IMPORTANT.

8. THE FM COMMUNITY SHOULD HAVE YOUTH INVOLVED IN THE SCHOOL BOARD AND OTHER GROUPS TO GET THEIR INPUT ON ISSUES

9. THIS WILL NOT SOLVE EVERY PROBLEM, HOWEVER

10. EITHER SET UP A BOARD TO INFILTRATE YOUTH IDEAS AND CONCERNS INTO COMMITTEES OR SET UP A PROGRAM TO ALLOW YOUTH TO SIT IN ON AND DISCUSS ISSUES WITH BOARD MEMBERS OF EXISTING COMMITTEES

11. SETTING UP A COMMITTEE WOULD BE VERY GREAT IF THERE WERE SEPERATE COMMITTEES FOR DIFFERENT TOPICS. THE COMMITTEES COULD MAKE A LIST OF WHAT THEY WANT TO DO AND THEN GIVE IT TO AN ADULT COUNCIL MEMBER WHO COULD BRING IT TO THE CITY COUNCIL.

   that would be cool, if they could actually get something done though {#657}

12. I AGREE WITH THAT

13. BUT I DON'T SEE WHY WE CANNOT JUST HAVE SOME YOUTH ON THE CITY COUNCIL

14. I THINK THAT WE NEED YOUTH ON THE CITY COUNCIL, ADULTS DO NOT KNOW WHAT TEENAGERS LIKE TO DO, OR WHAT THEY ARE IN TO

15. WOULD THE CITY BE WILLING TO HAVE YOUTH ON THE COUNCIL?

   Because we are {#766}

JOBS FOR YOUTH UNDER 16.

1. MOST PEOPLE UNDER 16 ARE NOT YET RESPONSIBLE FOR JOBS

   I disagree there are many jobs that kids under 16 can participate in and are just as qualified. In the summer, recreational jobs like the pool and stuff, many kids under 16 work there. {#387}

   I disagree, some aren't responsible but saying most aren't is a generalization and is not true. A lot of people under 16 are more mature than an 18 or 19 year old. {#552}

   I disagree also, people under sixteen are just as capable as 16 and up of being responsible and self sufficient, plus people below 16 years can be more mature, and or smarter, I think business could do better by hiring a better person under 16 than someone over {#562}

   THEY ARE, IF THEY ARE WILLING TO GO OUT AND GET A JOB {#668}

   I KNOW SOME 5 YEAR OLDS WHO ARE MORE RESPONSIBLE THAN ADULTS, WHO HAVE JOBS!!!! {#740}

   no kidding!! {#744}

2. THAT IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE. ALSO THERE ARE MANY THINGS PEOPLE UNDER 16 CAN DO JUST AS WELL AS ANYONE ELSE.
3. IT IS HARD TO FIND A JOB FOR PEOPLE UNDER AGE 16 BECAUSE THEY DON'T HAVE AS MANY PRIVILEGES SUCH AS DRIVING.

4. THERE SHOULD BE A BETTER OPENING FOR THOSE UNDER 16 WHO WOULD LIKE A JOB TO START MAKING MONEY AND CAN HANDLE THE RESPONSIBILITY

Many kids may need jobs as their parents maybe don't support them enough. There should be more opportunities for them. Most of the problem though is insurance I think (#528)

There are plenty of jobs for kids under 16. They can work at almost any fast food place. They can't always work at the job that they want, but they also don't have the same privileges as people who are 18. If you owned a business, wouldn't you choose to hire the 18 year old over the 15 year old? When you are 16 and over you can close stores, you can work at night, and you can work more hours. So I would definitely choose the person who is over 16. Maybe that isn't fair, but that is just the way it is. (#611)

5. I BELIEVE THAT PART TIME JOBS UNDER 16 IS A GREAT WAY TO TEACH COMMITMENT AND THE VALUE OF MONEY

The youth themselves have to present themselves in a respectful manner. Like people going to jobs with like shredded jeans or inappropriate shirts, if the youth cut down on that I think the businesses would be more open to letting younger people get jobs. (#454)

I AGREE WITH 5----JOBS ARE AN EXCELLENT WAY TO LEARN HOW TO MANAGE YOUR TIME, MANAGE MONEY, AND LEARN RESPONSIBILITY AND COMMITMENT (#467)

I agree with that, youth should not be handed everything they should make their own money. (#522)

I agree, part time jobs are good because they are more flexible around teen activities such as athletic practices (#666)

6. I THINK THAT MOST TEENAGERS ARE READY AND RESPONSIBLE, BUT I ALSO THINK THAT THEY CAN HANDLE MORE THAN HANDING OUT FRIES AT MCDONALDS, THERE SHOULD BE BETTER JOBS FOR TEENAGERS

7. JOBS FOR PEOPLE UNDER 16 COULD KEEP KIDS WHO OTHERWISE HAVE NOTHING TO DO OUT OF TROUBLE.

I agree, it would get good kids off the street and prevent them from being mixed up with the wrong crowd. In general create a better community and lower crime in the long run (#617)

8. I DISAGREE WITH #1!!!!!!! SOME 40 YEAR OLDS AREN'T RESPONSIBLE ENOUGH FOR JOBS EITHER. YOU CAN'T ASSUME NOT EVERYONE IS READY FOR A JOB.

9. I THINK THAT PEOPLE UNDER 16 SHOULD HAVE JOB OPPORTUNITIES. IT NOT ONLY TEACHES THEM TO BALANCE THEIR MONEY BUT A LOT OF THINGS ARE EXPENSIVE, JUST HANGING OUT WITH YOUR FRIENDS AT THE MALL COSTS MONEY BECAUSE YOU USUALLY GO SHOPPING SO IF THEY HAD A JOB THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO BE HITTING THEIR PARENTS UP FOR MONEY ALL THE TIME!

I agree, teens need to get the feel of what it is like to make your own money instead of getting it by nagging your parents (#625)

10. THERE SHOULD BE MORE OUTDOOR JOBS IN THE SUMMER. THAT WAY YOU DON'T FEEL SO COOPED UP ALL THE TIME.

Jobs would help, but where are these people's friends when they're all cooped up? (#630)

THERE ARE PLENTY OF OUTDOOR JOBS YOU JUST HAVE TO LOOK AROUND...BUT YOU WOULD BE SURPRISED AT HOME MANY OUTDOOR SEASONAL JOBS THERE ARE (#738)

11. I COULD NOT DISSAGREE WITH #1 MORE. I BELIEVE THAT A COMPANY CAN MAKE THEIR OWN DECISIONS ON WHO THEY WANT TO HIRE AND WHO NOT TO. I DON'T APPRECIATE BEING CATEGORIZED AS NOT BEING READY.

12. WAY TO GO 11!!!
13. I BELIEVE THAT YES MAYBE SOME ARE NOT READY BUT A LOT OF YOUTH ARE READY FOR JOBS.

   I agree, a lot of people I know who have jobs shouldn't because they don't care if they don't show up for work, they just want the money, also employers should be more strict with showing up, sometimes employers don’t even know that people don’t show up, yet they still get paid!!!

   That is true that some youth under 16 aren't ready for the responsibility, and that many are, but how are the ones who aren’t ready supposed to get ready if no one will give them a job to learn about the "working world"?

14. EVER HEARD OF A PAPER ROUTE? THIS WHOLE COLUMN HONESTLY DOES NOT NEED ATTENTION.

   Paper routes can be hard for most people to manage, especially hockey players who have early morning practice, plus parents get cranky when you get up so early or they have to get you up early. Paper routes provide good money, but it's not like paper persons are in high demand either.

   WOULD YOU HONESTLY WANT TO GET UP AT 4:00 EVERY DAY TO DELIVER PAPERS???

   *4:00 AM THAT IS. \{#718\}

   I AGREE I HAVE EARLY MORNING CLASSES PLUS I HAVE A LIFE AND I DON'T HAVE TIME TO BE GETTING UP TO GO DELIVER PAPERS. \{#723\}

   Yeah, me too. \{#727\}

   A PAPER ROUTE MAY NOT BE THE ANSWER, BUT THERE ARE DEFINITELY JOBS FOR THOSE UNDER 16 IF THEY ARE WILLING TO LOOK FOR THEM. \{#755\}

15. I THINK THERE SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF JOB SERVICE DIRECTED FOR US YEAR ROUND, IS THERE ONE?

16. THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO GIVE MORE RECOGNITION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS OF VOLUNTEERING...NOBODY EVER GETS ANY CREDIT EXCEPT FOR A HALF CREDIT IN SCHOOL

17. IN REGARD TO #14, A PAPER ROUTE IS THE WAY TO GO IF YOU DON'T MIND GETTING UP EARLY, BUT IT'S TRUE THAT IT'S NOT POSSIBLE FOR EVERYONE

   EXACTLY \{#724\}

18. YOU HAVE THE REST OF YOUR LIFE TO WORK. DON'T START TOO EARLY.

   I got my first job when I was 13 and have worked ever since. Sometimes I regret starting work so early. When you have a job you have to sacrifice a lot of things in your life. If your parents are willing to support you then it is not worth it. There are many other ways to learn responsibility.

19. WOW #14 IS COMPLETELY WRONG!! I BELIEVE THAT IT SHOULD BE YOUR DECISION IF YOU WANT A JOB AND THAT THIS IS AN IMPORTANT TOPIC.

20. I WAS JUST ABOUT TO SAY THE EXACT SAME THING AS #18

GETTING MORE ACCEPTENCE FOR OTHER CULTURES, RELIGIONS AND TRADITIONS.

1. AN OVERALL PROGRAM THAT WILL HELP THE SCHOOL SYSTEM IDENTIFY DIFFERENT PEOPLE, DIFFERENT GROUPS.

   My school has a whole lot of racism among students \{#358\}

2. I THINK THE BIGGEST PROBLEM RIGHT NOW IS NOT THE ACCEPTANCE BUT THE ACKNOWLEDGEMENT OF THESE DIFFERENT CULTURES==SO MANY PEOPLE DON'T EVEN KNOW THAT THERE ARE OTHER CULTURES IN THEIR OWN COMMUNITY

   We are taught with closed minds that our culture is the best. We're not accepting of other cultures really. We should look into other cultures more- it's important. \{#411\}
I think we need to open our eyes and experience the different cultures on the world. People need to remember that they aren't the only people in the universe. {#429}

I agree, most people at our school don't understand other cultures and if they learned more about them there wouldn't be so much segregation and prejudices. {#581}

3. I KIND OF AGREE WITH #2. PEOPLE I THINK KNOW THAT OTHER CULTURES ARE HERE, BUT THEY ARE NOT EXPOSED TO THEM, AND NOT FORCED TO THINK ABOUT THEM.

4. TOO MUCH RACISM IN THE SCHOOL

I agree. {#403}
My school has an incredible amount of racism among students {#410}
Does yours? {#424}
I haven't experienced a lot of racism at my school. {#452}
Well it does {#458}
I agree, but it seems like different races are stereotyped, a lot of times it is accurate though. I think some people bring it upon themselves {#461}
How can some bring upon themselves, if there of a different race and someone is being prejudice, how can that person of a different race have any control over it? {#553}

5. IN FARGO, WE DON'T HAVE VERY MUCH CULTURE BECAUSE WE ARE MAINLY ALL WHITE. WE NEED TO LEARN MORE ABOUT OTHER CULTURES AND BE MORE ACCEPTING.

Actually we have a lot of Mexicans and Native Americans {#427}
We also have just more than Mexicans and Native Americans. {#460}
I agree with the statement that we don't have very much cultural diffusion, unlike Minneapolis and other big cities. Fargo doesn't have barely any. We should take interest in different cultures and be a lot more accepting. {#481}
I think that cultural acceptance should be a class in school, preferably elementary school so that we could nip racism in the butt before it causes a problem. Teach kids a brief overview of different religions and cultures, including practices and beliefs, just so that they know what to expect and can be more accepting of one another's differences. {#739}
I think it would be cool if there was a program to go and visit refugee families all around the community or have them visit us and they could tell us a bout their culture. We could also help them with all the problems they face being in a totally new culture. Each student could have a different family to help and immerse them in our culture. I know how many problems they have as my mother works with them. Even little things such as making a telephone call for them would help. {#753}

6. #5 IS RIGHT WE DO NOT HAVE MANY OTHER CULTURES EXPOSED TO USE ON A DAILY BASIS

7. I THINK THAT THERE IS RACISM BECAUSE PEOPLE DON'T UNDERSTAND THE OTHER CULTURES, RELIGIONS, AND TRADITIONS.

I totally agree with that, we need people to understand that our way is not the best way, and we also need people to understand that they eat different foods than us so that is why they smell different from us. {#635}
They make comments about them, especially Mexicans. They don't even know anything about them. Also you can't stereotype them you have to look at each individual. They don't understand their culture or their situations. {#769}

8. IN FARGO, IT SEEMS WE ARE ALMOST OUT OF TOUCH WITH REALITY, WE NEED TO BE MORE ACCEPTING. WE SHOULD START AT THE HOME, AND THEN LEARN LATER AT SCHOOL.

9. I REALLY THINK IT IS TIME FOR FARGO TO GET WITH IT AND CELE BRATE ITS DIVERSITY BECAUSE IT HAS COME A LONG WAY IN THE DIVERSITY DEPARTMENT IN THE PAST 5 YEARS
10. SORRY SUBMITTED EARLY..... SO MAYBE WE NEED A CULTURAL AWARENESS PROGRAM IN OUR SCHOOLS
   Yes that would be a good idea for us but what about for the people of the other cultures. Would they be comfortable with it?????? (#505)

11. THE PROBLEM WITH #9 IS THAT WE HAVE VERY LITTLE CULTURAL DIVERSITY TO CELEBRATE.

12. #11 WE COULD START WITH GETTING TO KNOW THE PEOPLE OF CULTURE AROUND US

13. #12 WE COULD, BUT THERE IS JUST SO LITTLE
   But a little can go a long way, if we start with what we have, we will know how to use it in the future (#509)

14. I HAVE TO SAY I TOTALLY DISAGREE WITH #11----THAT JUST SHOWS HOW IGNORANT OUR SOCIETY IS
   I agree, there are numerous refugees that come to Fargo every year that are overlooked. (#587)

15. THE FACT THAT YOU SAY THAT SHOWS HOW LITTLE YOU KNOW=======I HAVE BEEN TO ETHNIC CELEBRATIONS THAT HAVE BEEN PACKED WITH PEOPLE FROM ALL DIFFERENT CULTURE====DON'T SAY WE DON'T HAVE ANYTHING TO CELEBRATE BECAUSE THERE IS A WHOLE LOT IF YOU LOOK FOR IT

16. #14 WHEN YOU SAY SOCIETY IS IGNORANT, THAT'S NOT TO SAY WE'RE STUPID. WE JUST DON'T REALIZE WHAT IS AROUND US.
   Maybe we don't want to realize what is around us (#517)

17. IM NOT SAYING WE'RE STUPID====WE NEED TO MAKE MORE OF AN EFFORT TO CELEBRATE ALL THE DIVERESTITY THAT SURROUNDS US

18. WE SHOULD HAVE PROGRAMS IN SCHOOLS

19. I AGREE WITH YOU. IT'S JUST HARD TO FIND SOMETIMES

20. I THINK THAT THERE IS PLENTY OF ACCEPTENCE OF OTHER RELIGIONS/CULTURES. MAYBE NOT SO MUCH PARTICIPATION, BUT EVERYONE IS ACCEPTING/TOLERANT OF OTHER RELIGIONS AND CULTURES. OF COURSE YOU ALWAYS HAVE YOUR EXTREMISTS IN EVERYTHING. AND IF YOU PAY ATTENTION IN SCHOOL YOU SHOULD LEARN ABOUT THE DIFFERENT RELIGIONS AND CULTURES IN HISTORY CLASS.
   I agree (#633)

21. I FEEL AS IF THE COMMUNITY IS TOO CONSERVATIVE AND LACKS IN ACCEPTANCE OF DIFFERENT RELIGIONS, CULTURES, AND HOMOSEXUALS

22. WHAT DOES #21 MEAN BY “ACCEPTENCE”

23. I DON'T THINK THAT A CULTURAL AWARENESS CLASS WOULD HELP, NOONE WOULD WANT TO GO TO THE CLASS

24. NOT NECESSARILY, PEOPLE MIGHT BE INTERESTED IN OTHER CULTURES, ESPECIALLY AFTER 9/11. IF THE CLASSES WERE THROUGH EACH SCHOOL IT WOULD WORK BETTER THAN AT LIKE A COMMUNITY CENTER

25. I DON'T THINK THAT PEOPLE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN IT BECAUSE THE PEOPLE THAT NEED TO GO WOULDN'T

26. YES, BUT HOW ABOUT A COMMUNITY DANCE?

MORE ENFORCEMENT OF LAW. KIDS WHO DRINK ALL THE TIME SHOULD BE REPRIMANDED, IT SHOULDN'T BE THE SCHOOL SECRET.

1. STRICTER PUNISHMENTS FOR YOUTH DRINKING
True! {#456}

I THINK YOU SHOULD TURN AWAY FROM PUNISHMENT AND INSTEAD FIND A WAY TO HELP CONTROL THEIR DRINKING BEFORE IT TURNS THEM INTO ALCOHOLICS {#513}

Punishing kids for underage drinking doesn't really work because they just turn around and do it again, so I agree with 513 {#530}

ABSOLUTELY. I ALSO AGREE W/ #513 {#546}

#530 I agree that a lot of kids will do it again but that doesn't mean that it can go unnoticed. Something needs to be done, the problem can't be ignored because they'll just do it again. {#610}

If they've done it once they most likely are going to do it again, even if they got in trouble it would make them feel more rebellious {#688}

What about just making alcohol harder to get by making new laws, adults don't need to have alcohol every time they get together, and they are the ones setting examples {#736}

What do u mean by new laws 736? {#764}

2. THEY SHOULD BE REPRIMANDED BECAUSE SOME TEENS DON'T THINK IT'S A BIG DEAL TO GET A MINOR, THEY STILL DRINK

3. THERE HAS TO BE MORE CONFIDENCE IN STUDENTS TO "TATTLE" ON PEOPLE THEY KNOW WHO ABUSE SUBSTANCES, EVEN IF THEY HAVE TO TURN IN FRIENDS

4. I DON'T THINK STRICTER PUNISHMENTS WILL WORK. RIGHT NOW IF YOU'RE CAUGHT DRINKING IN SEASON YOU'RE OUT THE REST OF SEASON. YOU'D THINK THAT WOULD ENCOURAGE PEOPLE TO STOP, BUT IF THEY DON'T CARE ABOUT IT, THERE'S NOT MUCH YOU CAN DO.

But if you are caught, and get just get a little slap on the wrist, then its no big deal and you will probably continue to do it because there is no real risk for punishment involved besides a fine and one night in jail {#480}

But what about it you are taken out of the sport? That gives the student more time to turn to drugs and alcohol. If they are kicked out of the sport then they are probably depressed as it is and now even more depressed when they are kicked out. I almost guarantee that the student will turn to alcohol. {#495}

I AGREE AND DISAGREE. I THINK IT DEPENDS ON THE PUNISHMENT. THE PUNISHMENT SHOULD NOT BE HAVING THEM SPEND THE NIGHT IN JUVY. THAT IS NOT GOING TO HELP. INSTEAD THEY SHOULD HAVE TO GO TO A SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOUSE AND VISTIT THE PEOPLE WHO STARTED DRINKING YOUNG AND ARE NOW ALCOHOLICS. THAT WOULD HOPEFULLY SCARE THEM AWAY FROM BIG TIME PARTYING. {#498}

I agree with #498 and #495. Don't take them out of the sports but instead put them in programs that teach them what could happen unless they change their habits. {#579}

495 I agree with u and they will probably start doing drugs and alcohol more than ever!! If they do get caught with anything during the season then they should have to dress for that sport but they cant play. That would really make me not want to do anything like that again, to take me out of a sport I loved for drinking is not right. Just don't drink in the first place when you’re in season and there would be no problem...except for when the season is over, that is a different story {#595}

5. I THINK A LOT OF THE PROBLEMS IS BECAUSE SOME PARENTS DON'T CARE AND WON'T PUNISH THEIR KIDS AND DON'T THINK THEY SHOULD BE PUNISHED.

Yes I think some parents don't care about what their kids do and it makes the rest of us look bad too. {#510}

6. ANOTHER PROBLEM IS THAT MANY PARENTS KNOW THEIR CHILD IS INVOLVED IN THESE THINGS AND THEY CONDONE IT==AT THE POINT WHERE THE PARENTS THINK IT IS OKAY, YOU GOT A HUGE PROBLEM

I agree with you. {#404}
THIS IS NOT ALWAYS TRUE. SOME PARENTS TAKE ACTION TO HELP THEIR TEEN. LIKE SEND THEM TO A TALK SHOW "HELP MY TEEN IS OUT OF CONTROL" OR EVEN BRING THEM TO A SUBSTANCE ABUSE HOSPITAL, OR EVEN GO AS FAR AS TURNING THEM INTO THE SCHOOL SO THEY GET KICKED OF A SPORTS TEAM. SOME WILL DO ANYTHING TO GET THEIR TEEN TO STOP DRINKING {#474}

I KNOW SOMEONE WHOSE MOTHER SENT HER TO BOARDING SCHOOL TO HELP KEEP HER OUT OF TROUBLE {#476}

7. MAYBE WHEN TEENS GET MINORS THEY COULD NOT BE KEPT SECRET, BUT POSTED IN THE SCHOOL OR SOMETHING, THAT WAY PEOPLE COULD TALK TO THE ONE WHO HAS PROBLEMS AND HELP THEM, INSTEAD OF THEM KEEPING IT SECRET AND STILL DRINKING

I think it should be made known, but not posted in the school {#496}

I don't think it should be posted in the school either but that the kids at each school that have minors should get together and maybe talk over their problems with other kids in the school. Since they all go to the same school they could work together to help each other out. Also then the school could keep a watch on that group of kids so they don't get into any more trouble {#548}

There are already existing programs such as these. {#695}

I don't think that it needs to be posted in school. Why would you want to embarrass somebody. Some people would even want their names to be posted, it would be sort of like a prize or an accomplishment if people got their names posted. I think posting names would cause more problems with people. {#725}

I don't think that kids would get together and talk about their "problems." Most of them don't think that it is a problem and wouldn't go to the meetings anyway. {#734}

Yeah, I don't think that this would be an effective way of trying to improve on something {#750}

8. MOST PEOPLE KNOW WHEN SOMEONE GETS A MINOR. IT'S NO SECRET, IT'S JUST NO ONE CARES.

I disagree!! It should be a big issue when someone gets a minor.... it should not be something that is blown off. The person who got the minor should feel embarrassed, not impressed with themselves {#483}

There should probably be more involved than just a minor if it’s not a big deal! {#490}

I disagree, a lot of people care if they get a minor. They probably just act like they don't because they're scared or embarrassed. {#616}

Humiliation is NOT the right tool that should be used to correct kids' alcohol problems. Then you would have to publicize everyone who gets a parking or speeding ticket. Everyone makes mistakes, and most are not publicized. {#708}

People that get minors are proud of it, they even compare the number of minors they get, we need stricter punishments for minors {#748}

Yep, I agree {#754}

9. AT MY SCHOOL, PEOPLE WHO GET MINORS ACTUALLY FLAUNT IT BECUASE THEY THINK THEY ARE COOL OR SOMETHING======IN REALITY, THEY ARE JUST STUPID!

Exactly, students should feel ashamed, but in reality sometimes they don't {#500}

10. PEOPLE THINK IT IS COOL TO DRINK. THAT IS THE PROBLEM. I THINK WE SHOULD START HANGING PICTURES IN SCHOOL OF THE REALLY COOL CORRODED LIVER THEY WILL HAVE BY THE TIME THEY ARE 40 YEARS OLD

11. EVEN WHEN PEOPLE SEE PICTURES LIKE THAT, IT DOESN'T MAKE THEM STOP. IT JUST GROSSES THEM OUT. IT WOULDN'T HURT TO DO IT, BUT I DON'T THINK IT WOULD BE EFFECTIVE.
12. I THINK GETTING A MINOR IS A BIG DEAL, BUT HANDING OUT MINORS IS NOT GOING TO STOP TEENAGERS FROM DRINKING, THEY WILL JUST FIND WAYS TO DO IT AND NOT GET CAUGHT

13. IT'S TIME TO MAKE PEOPLE RESPONSIBLE FOR THEIR ACTIONS. TOO OFTEN WE LET PEOPLE OFF THE HOOK WITH THE EXCUSE THAT THEY'RE JUST YOUNG. THAT MAY BE VALID ONCE, BUT THERE NEEDS TO BE CONSEQUENCES BOTH UNDER THE LAW, Socially, AND AT HOME.

14. TEENS NEVER GET CAUGHT FOR DRINKING OR SUBSTANCE ABUSE. NOT EVEN IN SCHOOL. EVEN WHEN IT IS VERY VERY VERY VERY OBVIOUS! I JUST THINK THAT ADULTS HAVE GIVEN UP, BECAUSE IT'S SUCH A PROBLEM.

Yeah, I've seen that where you can obviously tell when a student is drunk, and the teacher can also tell but doesn't do anything about it. (#638)

SO MANY PEOPLE COME TO SCHOOL AND CLASSES INTOXICATED OR UNDER THE INFLUENCE OF SOME SORT OF DRUG. THE TEACHERS JUST SEEM TO LAUGH ABOUT IT OR NOT TAKE MUCH NOTICE TO THE (#651)

15. HAVING YOUR NAME IN THE CITY PAPER FOR RECEIVING A MINOR ISN'T A WHOLE LOT OF PUNISHMENT IF YOU ASK ME

FINES ARE MORE POTENT THAN THE PAPER AT SOLVING THIS PROBLEM. (#729)

WHERE CAN YOUTH GO TO OBTAIN SERVICES TO ADDRESS THEIR NEEDS?

1. TO THEIR SCHOOLS AND TO THEIR STUDENT COUNCIL.

2. NOT MANY PLACES TO GO.

3. THEY COULD FIND HELP IN A YOUTH GROUP AT A CHURCH.

Some people don't want to join a youth group because they think it is boring. (#364)

Yes, they think it is boring, but have they even tried it. (#408)

If they would try it they might have a different opinion. (#412)

True, some youth groups are boring and/or complacent however there are fun youth groups out there!!!

I love mine we do stuff all the time and I wouldn't be afraid to come to my youth director with a problem. (#493)

I think that joining a youth group can be a very positive experience for lots of teens. I joined one myself last year and it helped me become more active in my community and I felt like I was really making a difference with the services we did around town. Plus, it's fun and it keeps kids out of trouble. (#634)

4. MEETINGS FOR THOSE WHO DON'T FEEL ACCEPTED BECAUSE OF THEIR SEXUALITY, RACE, ETC.

5. COUNSELING CENTERS

Some people are scared to see a counselor (#409)

I agree, a lot of people are scared to see a counselor but there are other ways to get help. Even calling a help hotline would be better than keeping it all inside. (#641)

6. I THINK YOUTH DO NOT KNOW THAT THERE ARE PLACES THAT CAN HELP YOU. WE SHOULD HELP THE YOUTH KNOW THAT THERE ARE PLACES OUT THERE TO HELP. I'M NOT FAMILIAR WITH TOO MANY OF THEM.

7. THERE AREN'T MANY SERVICES THAT I OR MY FRIENDS KNOW ABOUT.

Maybe in the phone book there could be a place for youth services (#575)

8. THERE SHOULD BE PLACES WHERE YOUTH CAN TALK TO OTHER YOUTH OR OTHERS CLOSER TO THEIR AGE THAN ADULTS ARE. OTHER TEENS OR PEOPLE IN THEIR 20'S
I completely agree, I think there should be youth that have to sign confidentiality things, have references to know they are a trustworthy person, and be able to be TRAINED by counselors or someone who has dealt with issues before to learn how to do it, and then I think it would be more accepted by youth. They may trust someone more who's their own age, and not that much older than them.  

There is a group like this in Fargo that has trained teens that do peer work.

9. THERE SHOULD BE A PLACE NOT NEAR THE SCHOOL, THAT IS A COUNSELING CENTER, AND THAT WAY, THEY WOULDN'T HAVE TO GO TO THE COUNSELING OFFICE IN FRONT OF EVERYONE, THEY COULD GO THERE ON THEIR OWN TIME. THE COUNSELORS COULD BE VOLUNTEER.

10. I'M SURE THAT THERE ARE A LOT OF SERVICES OUT THERE THAT ARE WILLING TO HELP YOUTH- THEY ARE JUST NOT ADVERTISED ENOUGH AND IT MAKES US FEEL LIKE WE'RE ALL ALONE WHEN WE HAVE PROBLEMS. YOUTH SERVICES SHOULD BE ADVERTISED ON A REGULAR BASIS, THERE IS ALWAYS GOING TO BE A TEEN OUT THERE THAT IS GOING TO FEEL ALONE WITHOUT A PLACE TO GO TO TALK TO SOMEONE

I AGREE WITH THIS, WE SHOULD KNOW ABOUT SERVICE OUTLETS AND HELP CENTERS JUST LIKE WE KNOW EVERY RESTAURANT AND SHOP IN TOWN, IT SHOULD BE BASIC AND COMMON, SHAMELESS INFORMATION.

I think they need to be advertised more, too. I am involved in a group in Fargo that does work for teens and I have never heard it advertised and had never even heard of it until I began training there.

11. THERE ARE A LOT OF PLACES EVEN IN THE SCHOOL THAT OFFER HELP TO STUDENTS--- STUDENTS JUST NEED TO TAKE THE INITIATIVE TO SEEK THEM OUT

12. TALK TO PARENTS, TALK TO FRIENDS~~!!!

Some people have parents that can relate to their problems without getting upset at them, that's great. But a lot of people need more than just parents and friends to talk to about their problems.

13. I AGREE VERY MUCH WITH NUMBER 8, A LOT OF TEENS WOULD FIND IT EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE IN THEIR 20'S THEN TO TALK TO AN OLDER ADULT BECAUSE THEY WOULDN'T VIEW THEM AS THEIR PARENTS, JUST SOMEONE TO TALK TO

14. I THINK A VOLUNTEER HELPLINE WITH OTHER TEENS ANSWERING THE PHONES AND BEING THERE TO HELP WITH SOMEONE’S PROBLEMS WOULD BE EFFECTIVE. THERE WOULD HAVE TO BE AN ADULT ADVISOR THOUGH IN CASE A PROBLEM WAS TOO GREAT.

15. I THINK IT'S EASIER TO TALK TO SOMEONE ON THE PHONE THAN IN PERSON

I disagree. Personally, I like seeing the person and talking. You can tell more what the other person is thinking and it can still be laid back and informal.

I know what you mean. Interaction not by the phone but in person is better.

16. IT SEEMS THAT MANY OF THE PROBLEMS TEENS FACE COULD BE SOLVED BY INSTRUCTION FROM A RELIGIOUS INSTITUTION

It seems like all of these suggestions for places to go are nice, but impractical. We have places where kids can get help with whatever. They're called churches.

I agree with number 637. Churches not only have people who care and will talk to you, but they have many resources and connections with other institutions such as counseling centers.

Many of the problems in our world exist because we've strayed from the Biblical and Christian heritage our nation was founded upon. If we as a country returned to these principles, incredible changes would result. I truly believe we would not be faced with some of the problems we are currently dealing with, at least not in the present magnitude.

What churches and Christianity can offer is hope. Not all other institutions can offer this. The reason for the hope is the fact that we as people can have a relationship with our Creator who loves us dearly. Not only is He the Creator of life, he is also the sustainer. He holds the answers.
17. I DON'T LIKE HOW AT THE SCHOOL COUNSELING CENTERS YOU HAVE TO ANNOUNCE TO THE SECRETARIES AND EVERYONE ELSE AROUND THE REASON FOR WHY YOU WANT TO TALK TO YOUR COUNSELOR

18. I AGREE #17, AT LEAST AT MY SCHOOL, THERE IS AS MUCH GOSSIP GOING ON THE OFFICE WITH THE FACULTY AS THERE IS IN THE HALLWAYS. MAYBE THAT'S WHY

19. YOUTH GROUPS CAN HELP YOU SO MUCH, THIS IS THE BEST OUTLET I'VE FOUND, THE CHURCH IS THERE FOR KIDS, BUT IT TOO HAS AREAS THAT NEED IMPROVEMENT.

   It's important to realize that the church is not perfect, but it does hold the answers and the Truth. {#768}

POLICE GUIDANCE AGAINST ILLEGAL ACTIVITY

1. THERE SHOULD BE POLICE INVOLVEMENT IN YOUTH ACTIVITIES, YOUTH LISTENING TO THE OFFICERS AND THE OFFICERS LISTENING TO THE YOUTH

   I agree. I think if everyone respected each other more, it would make enforcement better. The police aren't out to get you. They are there to help us and keep us safe. {#444}

   if the police got more involved with the youth then if the youth had some problem they would know who they could go to for advice or help {#568}

   I agree with #568, the youth often just has questions about the law and would just like some answers {#726}

2. POLICE SHOULD INTERACT MORE WITH YOUTH AND WORK WITH US.

   Yes, but we should also work with them. {#447}

   I think that youth are threatened by the police, some youth have bad first experiences with cops, and that ruins their whole attitudes toward police. I think that officers and youth should make a greater effort to respect each other {#463}

   I think the police are willing to work with us but we aren't willing to work with them. {#470}

   I think it is a good idea for police and youth to interact. Many teens are scared of police and feel that they are just out to get us when really they are trying to help us and protect us. {#685}

   I also think it's a great idea for the police to interact with the youth, such as the officers that are at our schools, they should go into the class rooms and just answer questions that the students have {#705}

3. POLICE SHOULDN'T LET PEOPLE THEY KNOW GET AWAY WITH SPEEDING OR OTHER OFFENSES

4. PEOPLE NEED TO START VIEWING POLICE AS THEIR FRIEND. NOT AS PEOPLE WHOSE ONLY JOB IS TO RUIN THEIR DAY.

   Yes that is true {#485}

5. I AGREE WITH 1 AND 2 VERY MUCH, ONE THING ABOUT POLICE, BECAUSE WE AREN'T REALLY USED TO BEING AROUND THEM, IS THAT MANY KIDS ARE JUST KIND OF SCARED OF THEM

6. LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICIALS NEED TO BE CONSISTENT WITH TEENS. IT IS NOT FAIR TO LET ONE KID OFF AND PUNISH OTHER ONES.

   There needs to maybe be a larger party force to catch all the alcohol parties not just some of them {#571}

   No one can catch everything that goes on. It's important to realize that if people would just make the right choice and not do these things that are wrong, there would be nothing to be caught doing. What happened to right and wrong regardless of being caught and punished? {#647}

7. TEENAGERS DO NOT LIKE COPS, BUT THERE ARE NOT ENOUGH COPS TO STOP A LOT OF PEOPLE FROM DOING BAD THINGS, AND SINCE TEENAGERS KNOW THAT THEY ARE NOT WorrRIED ABOUT GETTING CAUGHT AND DO IT ANYWAY
8. THERE NEEDS TO BE AN UNDERSTANDING THAT THERE ARE CONSEQUENCES FOR ACTIONS. POLICE OFFICERS ARE SIMPLY HERE TO HELP PEOPLE MAKE THE RIGHT CHOICES AND ENFORCE THE LAWS WHEN THEY DON'T.

9. I DISAGREE WITH #6. IF YOU WERE A COP AND YOU PULLED OVER A KID WHO WAS REALLY RUDE AND YELLING AT YOU THAT THEY DIDN'T DO ANYTHING, YOU WOULD BE MORE INCLINED TO GIVE THEM A TICKET THEN IF YOU PULLED SOMEONE OVER WHO WAS REALLY NICE AND FRIENDLY AND REMORSEFUL. USUALLY WHEN COPS PULL YOU OVER THEY DON'T CARE IF THEY LEAVE YOU WITH A TICKET OR NOT, THE ATTITUDE THAT YOU HAVE HELPS THEM DECIDE IF YOU ARE GOING TO BE GETTING A TICKET OR NOT.

OTHER

1. I’VE BEEN ON DIFFERENT YOUTH BOARDS WHERE THEY CLAIM MY VOICE COUNTS. HOW COME I NEVER SEE RESULTS? THE COMMUNITY NEEDS TO CHANGE FOR US.

2. MORE PROGRAMS THAT INSTALL HIGH SCHOOL YOUTH TEACHING MIDDLE SCHOOL OR ELEMENTARY AGE STUDENTS.

   I agree. Programs like Dads make a difference or Teens teaching aids. We also did this kindness retreat at an elementary school. Those kinds of things make a big difference. (#543)

   I DISAGREE, WHEN THOSE PROGRAMS CAME TO MY SCHOOL, NO ONE WAS INTERESTED. (#674)

   Youth interaction with young children is a great way to build bridges and to learn. The time to instill values into people is when they are young. Because of this, it’s extremely important to have positive and right influences surrounding our children. (#683)

   I think it’s a great idea because the students will see the High school youth at sporting events, or concerts, or in the community and will remember, "you taught me about ___." It’s great for both sides. (#758)

   Yes such as the program Dad’s Make a Difference...high school kids teach the middle school kids and it's been proven more effective then just a teacher teaching it. (#767)

3. I HEAR ALL THE TIME WE ARE TRYING TO KEEP KIDS IN NORTH DAKOTA, IF YOU WANT TO KEEP KIDS IN NORTH DAKOTA LISTEN TO THEIR IDEAS AND HEAR WHAT THEY HAVE TO SAY AND MAKE SOME CHANGES.

   Absolutely (#593)

4. I REALLY THINK WE SHOULD HAVE MORE DANCES IN THE COMMUNITY. IT WOULD SOLVE THE PROBLEM OF NOTHING TO DO ON WEEKENDS!

   Wow i totally agree!!!!!!!! (#588)

   OUR SCHOOL DOESN'T HAVE MANY DANCES, SO IT WOULD REALLY BE A GOOD CHANGE. (#590)

   That or a dance club aimed at youth. Nonalcoholic beverages but it would still bring in youth as long as you didn't close it at 11 so they could just go drink after that. (#592)

   That would be a lot of fun! (#598)

   I agree with # 592 alot (#607)

   It could even be run by teens in the community! (#626)

   A dance club like liquid motion should be reopened (#648)

   Was liquid motion just for teens? (#653)

   I agree we do need a place like 592 talked a bout (#715)

5. I BELIEVE THAT THERE SHOULD BE A SWIMMING POOL OR SOMETHING OUTDOOR FOR IN THE SUMMER ON THE SOUTH SIDE OF FARGO. SOUTH FARGO IS A GROWING SO MUCH WITH ALL OF THE NEW SCHOOLS AND SUCH.
THERE SHOULD BE LIKE A COUNTRY CLUB KIND OF THING ALONG WITH THAT. WITH ORGANIZED ACTIVITIES, AND A POOL, AND POSSIBLY A SMALL GOLF COURSE. IT COULD HAVE A SMALL COST - LIKE 10-20 DOLLARS A MONTH. IT WOULD ALSO BE A FUN PLACE TO WORK! {#615}

YES WE NEED SOMETHING THAT IS NICE AND LESS EXPENSIVE FOR YOUTH TO WORK AT AND TO ENJOY. BECAUSE NOW DAYS EVERYTHING SEEMS TO BE SO EXPENSIVE. {#645}

Oh i know what you mean! {#650}

Yeah I know that in 2003 they're going to add some pools and other recreation stuff on South, south Fargo {#672}

Like what kind of recreational stuff? {#677}

Really? {#678}

That is great news!!!! {#680}

How about like a sand volleyball net set up somewhere where people could come and watch and spend the afternoon and stuff not a dirty park {#681}

That is exactly what i mean {#684}

That could be part of the country club idea too. {#686}

Why does everything go to the Southside?? I mean I live on the Southside and everything but why don’t we have some things up north too? {#742}

Because we are expanding more to the south. {#749}

Because there is not very much there {#752}

And because there is North High and Island Park both {#757}

What do u mean 757 {#759}

6. I AGREE WITH 2, WE NEED ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION PROGRAMS, I THINK ONE OF THE REASONS KIDS ARE FRUSTRATED IS BECAUSE THEY GET OPTIONS IN OTHER COMMUNITIES THAT FM DOESN'T OFFER, WE NEED TO LOOK AT OUR SCHOOLS

7. THERE SHOULD BE SOME KIND OF COFFEE SHOP HANG OUT FOR TEENS TO SIT WITH FRIENDS AND STUDY.

I think places like Noah's coffee or Planet 19 are fitting this need. {#702}

GO NOAH'S!!! I LOVE THE LAID BACK ATMOSPHERE...THERE NEEDS TO BE MORE PLACES LIKE THAT TODAY {#703}

8. WHAT ARE SOME GOOD IDEA'S FOR SPARE TIME ACTIVITIES THAT DON'T COST LOTS OF MONEY?

HOW COULD THESE SERVICES BE IMPROVED?

1. REACH OUT TO THE YOUTH, SHOW THEM THE SERVICES THAT ARE OUT THERE--MAKE THEM MORE WELL KNOWN.

2. ADD YOUTH CENTER.

3. ADD FREE COUNSELORS BESIDES SCHOOL COUNSELORS AVAILABLE TO YOUTH

   This would help immensely {#602}

4. NEED A PLACE TO SPECIFICALLY ADDRESS DRINKING AND SUBSTANCE ABUSE

5. ADD A PLACE FOR YOUTHS TO GO TO TALK TO YOUTHS.

   I agree with this. {#503}

6. MORE SERVICES.
7. ADVERTISE.
   Give out phone numbers and information in school and church. {#334}
   I agree. Lots of times there are places to go, but teens do not know about them {#514}
   I strongly agree, there are places around town that can help teens and do peer work but we never hear
   about them. They should be advertised at schools so that those who don't feel comfortable going to
   their counselor can have other options to get help. {#731}

8. CONFIDENTIAL SERVICES/MAKE THEM KNOWN TO ALL AGES.
   There should be a number for youth services that is advertised all over the school that youth can call if
   they need someone to talk to {#619}
   619, I know there is a number for suicide people it's 237-seek something like that. It could be
   something like that like, 235-help {#628}

9. HAVE MORE PLACES TO GO BECAUSE YOU WANT TO.

10. HAVE FREE HELP CENTERS FOR YOUTH.

11. SET UP CLUBS WHERE DIFFERENT GROUPS OF KIDS ARE THE ENTERTAINMENT.

   I agree{#599}
   I agree too! It would be fun to go watch your peers perform, and have a good time. {#640}

12. HAVE PLACES WHERE YOUTH RUN THE ACTIVITIES

   I agree. More teens would be likely to go if it was run by teens. Adults don't always need to be in
   charge. Teens are responsible and know what is needed. {#442}
   Yep that is why youth court is so great {#492}
   I also go to youth court it is very beneficial {#631}
   If you had a place for youth to go maybe if they had adults there in a back room watching with video
   cameras so they are there but not really {#636}

13. WHEN KIDS GET IN TROUBLE, THERE IS A YOUTH COURT THAT IS YOUTH RUN. I BELIEVE
    THAT IS A GREAT WAY TO DO IT, BECAUSE THE ACCUSED REALIZES THEIR FAULTS, AND
    THEY USUALLY DON'T REPEAT THEIR OFFENSE

14. THE BEST WAY WOULD BE FREE AND CONFIDENTIAL.

15. YOUTH COURT IS A GREAT WAY TO REPRIMAND THE YOUTH CRIMES---PEOPLE FEEL
    MORE COMFORTABLE GOING THERE BECAUSE THEY HAVE PEERS, NOT ADULTS DECIDING
    THEIR PUNISHMENT

   I agree with this. Teens are more likely to interact positively with their peers rather than adults that they
   don't think understand them. {#700}

16. I THINK THERE SHOULD BE SOME SORT OF "COUNTRY CLUB" FOR TEENS. IT SHOULDN'T
    COST A LOT, BUT TEENS COULD GO THERE AND SWIM, GOLF, AND HANG OUT WITH THEIR
    FRIENDS.

17. REOPEN A CLUB SIMILAR TO LIQUID MOTION, ETC.

   This would be a good idea. It gives teens a place to go and hang out with their friends, but many teens
   don't have the money to pay for getting into a club every weekend. It would be nice if there were some
   sort of student discount that could be used {#751}

18. A PLACE RUN BY TEENS AND NOT ADULTS WHO ARE TRYING TO HAVE THEIR PLACE
    BEING RECOGNIZED FOR TRYING TO BRING IN THE YOUTH

19. WELL SAID 18!
CURRENT LEVEL OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT (Categorizer)

**CURRENT LEVEL OF YOUTH INVOLVEMENT**

1. **LEISURE OPPORTUNITIES**

   I think that there should be more opportunities for youth to do constructive things (#16)

   I agree. (#17)

   A lot of students use bike paths in the summer, and island park to swim. There are many who use the opportunities available, but there are also those kids who vandalize all that has been given to them for free. (#21)

   I agree there is not a lot of things to do (#24)

   People say that there are many opportunities that youth can get involved in but it's the matter of what to do or who to contact to get involved in them. (#26)

   We aren't told what's available. (#28)

   Youth were involved in creating United We Dance. That was an awesome opportunity that the youth developed. (#35)

   We have no say in what is put out for us in leisure activities. If we have any say, it's because we are being asked if it'll cost more money then it is worth. (#36)

   No we really don't have any say in what we can do in leisure opportunities (#37)

   16 or others -- how could youth be involved in developing those (#38)

   There are lots of thing for outdoor activities, but what about the people who like artsy stuff (#40)

   I agree #35 (#43)

   I think that keeping leadership programs available for teens would help keep us as involved as we can. (#44)

   I agree #44 (#48)

   Teens just need to follow through with their ideas because a lot of times that's the only way we can make it work. (#49)

   Yes (#51)

   What about "Youth Leadership" that is through the Chamber of Commerce. I loved doing it! (#55)

   Any one can find something to do, you just have to look. Not all entertainment has to be handed to you on a multimedia platter. (#61)

   Exactly (#71)

   Youth Leadership was definitely an awesome program that I was involved in too!! It got me really thinking (#79)

   More programs like Youth Leadership need to be created by teens or adults, or maybe even integrated into the schools. (#85)

   I just think we're not involved in creating them. There are many opportunities out there for us. (#95)

   There should be more opportunities for youth to create places and things for other youth to get involved in (#98)

   I disagree #61-- a lot of the programs being talked about I have never heard of and have no idea how to get involved in. Then what am I supposed to do? (#109)

   109, one way to get involved is to go to your school counselor and ask about these programs. You could also ask people if they have heard of them (#276)
Youth need to be more involved in the community. I think that if there were to be some sort of program for teens start their own activities that it would be very popular and beneficial. (#278)

I think there are ways to get youth involved in the community but there isn't anything that we can actually make a difference in. We can't actually make something happen. I'm in youth leadership too and it gets you thinking about things you could do but there's nothing that is there for you to actually work on and do. (#294)

I agree w/ #35. United We Dance was a great event. (#296)

28, and even if we are what can we do how do we help or do anything set anything in motion? (#306)

I think youth have everything that they could possibly want to keep themselves entertained. I know I'm content. (#327)

Yea I agree with u 327 but some people always want more (#337)

YOUTH TEACHING IN THE ARTS WOULD BE A GREAT OPPORTUNITY (#408)

2. SECONDARY EDUCATION

What do you mean? (#41)

MANY PEOPLE GO TO COLLEGE, BUT MANY FLUNK OUT (#42)

What does flunking out have to do with anything (#47)

There aren't very many outside resources to help youth find colleges that they are interested in, just their own time at home or at school (#54)

Yeah I don't get the flunking out comments---I know some students that have gone to the school board meetings to protest something, but it's very few (#104)

I think we should try to take some issues to the school board that we feel strongly about (#64)

I think a lot of teens don't go to board meetings because they are afraid that what they say won't matter. (#104)

I think by the flunking out thing was meant that, you participate at first, but after awhile, many drop out...not necessarily flunk out (#106)

I know one of my teachers said that our school had 65% of students drop out of college, it was pretty bad (#122)

It's shown that many of Fargo High School graduates go on to college but never graduate (#272)

I agree, it is always the people with the better study habits and motivation that succeed in college (#281)

It seems when they tell us those figures that they expect us to fail. Why wouldn't they try to change those numbers by saying that we are a new generation that can go on and succeed. (#284)

I had one teacher tell my class that during the graduation ceremony the teachers could pick out the 15% that would graduate from college. This made me feel bad because they assume if we don't do well in high school we won't succeed in college. This is completely false. (#307)

DETERMINATION AND CONFIDENCE IS THE KEY. (#335)

3. POST SECONDARY EDUCATION

THE YOUTH DOESNT HAVE MUCH SAY IN IT, BECAUSE THAT IS ABOVE OUR HEADS (#45)

I think that post secondary ed. should be more talked about and made better known to students, because it is an excellent opportunity to get a feel for college and get away from the everyday high school atmosphere (#75)

I agree with #75 (#111) (#120)

Right on y'all, it is important to remember that we need to plan for the future (#286)
4. RETAIL/BUSINESS

I don't think that right now there isn't very much youth involvement, for youth under 16. (#18)
I agree (#30)

THERE ISN'T MUCH AVAILABLE FOR US TO DO IN THAT AREA (#53)
I agree. There is hardly any youth involvement in retail/business. It seems that there is nothing for
teens to do in this area, even if you are over 16. (#56)
I would like to be involved in this, but I don't know how teens can. (#58)

Most people who start to worry about retail are college age kids and older (#60)
I don't think that teens care one way or another about this subject (#65)
We are limited to being stuck behind a counter scanning groceries or clothes all day and only doing
things that we can't screw up or that don't need a supervisor or learning experiences (#83)
I think that teens aren't viewed in the right way. People see us as disrespectful and not very mature.
Some teens deserve this title but others do not. If all teens picked up their end and started showing
more respect that would help. (#89)

We are very young and don't have many skills yet that is we cannot do anything important (#97)
I agree that teens do not have much involvement in this area because businesses don't care what we
think, they care what our parents think because they're the ones with the money. (#117)
I agree with #117 (#130)
I agree with that too (#138)

Yeah, it seems that adults have this mentality that if 20 kids in a school are bad, All of them must be
bad( (#207)

Right now I know I would like to get a job but I don't really want to work at a fast food place or grocery
store because to me, that is all that seems to be out there for jobs for teens. (#209)

There should be jobs that youth want to work at that place and where we can put our skills to use and
make a difference (#241)
I disagree with number 97---I think we can offer ideas that could make a difference so that is important
(#257)

#83 I agree with you (#277)
I agree with 207, just because 1% of the kids in my grade fight or are the problem children, doesn't
mean the other 99% are so we get marked as a bad class because of a few people's actions (#300)
I agree with #27 (#323)

5. COURTS/LAWENFORCEMENT

I don't think that the youth are very much involved with court/law enforcement in our community. And
we need discussion like this to decide what the laws should be for teens (#57)

THE ONLY THING I KNOW OF THAT WE CAN GET INVOLVED IN IN THE COURT SYSTEMS IS
YOUTH COURT (#59)
I agree with #59 (#72)
I agree with 59 also, and how one can participate or be involved in youth court? (#96)
Things like that aren't advertised enough so we don't know how to get involved. (#99)
It's not that we don't want to (#103)

You can go down to the court offices and pick up an application thing. Youth Court is a really great
program, but it is definitely not publicized enough. (#112)
I agree with things not being publicized enough. (#123)

Youth court seems to be the only thing out there that gets us involved in the court system. We should be able to make recommendations for the laws the only apply to us teenagers. (#126)

I agree that Youth Court is not publicized enough, however I think we need something BESIDES Youth Court... I mean it's a wonderful program (ABSOLUTELY) but what about something else. (#153)

Like what?? (#191)

Youth court is a great way to see how the judicial system works

I think that youth court is enough because we can’t be expected to be allowed into courts without certification (#197)

Yah, there really is no other practical way for us to get involved===I think the FMm area has done a good job with this (#201)

Very very true (#204)

Agree totally (#236)

There is also an Explorers Program that is targeted more towards law enforcement (#279)

6. GOVERNMENT

There really is no involvement by students---no one has the urge or the guts to stand up because they know they won’t be acknowledged and that no one will listen (#46)

We are absolutely not involved in the government. (#50)

There should be some type of student government that actually has a say in things that will effect the youth in the community. (#52)

I don’t think that students should have a large say in matters of city public programs but at least something involving us would be good (#66)

THERE ARE GROUPS, SUCH AS THE YOUNG REPUBLICANS, THAT YOU CAN GET INVOLVED IN, BUT IT IS NOT VERY WIDELY KNOWN, BUT THAT IS ABOUT ALL YOU CAN DO (#70)

I agree with 52, Teens are a huge part of the community it doesn't make sense that we shouldn't be involved (#113)

I don’t think we should run the government or anything, but our ideas should be not just heard, but sometimes taken into consideration. (#133)

Yeah, I agree with 133--we shouldn’t run our town, but there should be some sort of session where we can voice some ideas and actually have those ideas considered (#186)

I really agree, if we did run the whole town there would probably be a lot of raised havoc because we don’t have the experience needed, but our ideas should totally be heard and really taken into a lot of consideration (#226)

Yeah, because we experience a lot of the stuff that is talked about in the govt. Adults don’t always experience this stuff, but they somehow get to make decisions==our ideas are important! (#248)

I had no REAL idea of how things are run in government until attending boy’s state. I now have more respect for politicians and a better grasp of what happens but it doesn’t help me to participate in government. (#428)

7. HEALTH CARE SERVICES

There isn’t a whole lot of opportunities for teens here because you need to have certain qualifications and some don't have it. (#68)

I REALLY DON’T KNOW OF ANY OPPORTUNITIES, EXCEPT FOR BEING A CANDY STRIPER, OR MAYBE WORKING AT A NURSING HOME (#76)

I agree #68 (#80)
I disagree you can always volunteer at a nursing home, or at the VA. I know that both accept volunteers {#81}
81- I agree {#84}
True true {#108}
I don't think teens should be involved much in Health Care Services. Health is a very serious matter, and while candy striping and volunteering is awesome, we shouldn't expect to hang out with doctors or anything that may interfere with someone's treatment even if we are trying to help. {#146}
Yah, I think volunteering is the best way to get involved at places like these--of course you are not going to be offered a clinical job because you need those qualifications--but volunteering is good way to learn more about this stuff {#148}
Right on! number 146 {#151}
I agree. If you are interested in health care and like doing that kind of thing, then volunteering is the best way to get started. I just think that there should be more encouragement for teens to volunteer. {#215}
Yes {#223}
There is a program youth can do that trains them and gives them the opportunity to ride with on 911 calls. I don’t know what it is called but one of my friends participates in it. {#305}
Yeah that's the FM ambulance ride a long service. {#315}
Also there is a future doctors program at Merit Care, and if you decide to work at Bethany they pay for you to receive CNA certificates {#320}

8. RECREATION FACILITIES
THE YOUTH IS ABLE TO WORK AT THE Y, BUT NOT MANY TEENS WORK AT RECREATION FACILITIES. WE ARE ABLE TO GET INVOLVED THERE BY PLAYING SPORTS AND WORKING OUT. I THINK A LOT OF TEENS USE IT FOR THAT PURPOSE, ESPECIALLY AT SCHOOL. {#87}
Ya {#105}
I think they need to have more outdoor places to do stuff like play soccer and basketball without getting in trouble. {#125}
I agree #125, but also I think it would get more participants if they make everyone feel safe and comfortable there. {#132}
I agree 125 {#144}
I agree with 132. The youth should feel safe where they go. {#222}
I think there should be more recreation places for teens to go just to have fun. Many teens work out at places like the Y and Courts Plus, but there is not really a place where you can just go and play soccer or volleyball just for fun with other people your age. {#228}
It would be cool if there was something like that for people who aren't in school sports, because sometimes people like playing sports but aren't good enough to play on a high school team. {#230}
That's very true #230. Everyone should have the opportunity to play in an intermural sport. {#246}
I agree with you, 230, I mean there are a lot of people I know that aren't really good enough at sports to play them on a team, or just don't have enough time, but they would really like to play it on there off time just for fun {#247}
#132 is right about safety {#309}

9. THERE REALLY ISN'T MUCH YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THE COMMUNITY. THE ONLY PLACE YOUTH ARE REALLY INVOLVED IN ANYTHING IS IN YOUTH GROUPS.
I agree {#20}
I agree. There are church youth groups, but not city-wide youth groups. We are not involved in the community as much as we should be. {#22}

I agree with you. Some people aren't involved in church youth groups; we should have a city youth group. {#62}

I agree too. It's not that we do not want to be involved, but I personally, feel really uninformed about opportunities available in being involved in decisions in the community. {#69}

I agree with 69 {#129}

Yeah, if there was more knowledge on the opportunities that were available to us, I know a lot more people would be involved {#135}

I AGREE WITH #9--WE REALLY ONLY SERVE THE COMMUNITY BY VOLUNTEERING BUT WE AREN'T REALLY INVOLVED IN ACTIVITIES WHEN IT COMES TO DECISION MAKING {#33}

If we are given interest, we will speak {#239}

Yes that is very true {#269}

There are many different things to be involved in such as Teens Teaching AIDS, Explorers, Youth Court, Youth Leadership etc. {#301}

There are many things to be involved in. There needs to be some initiative on our part too. We can't expect all the info to come rolling to us. We could just as easily seek out opportunities. All it takes is to ask. {#330}

I agree with 330, there are things that youth can do but they need to ask to be involved in it. {#341}

In response to #33, don't underestimate the value of volunteering. That can change peoples' lives in extremely vital ways. {#343}

10. SOMETIMES YOU TELL US YOU WANT US TO BE INVOLVED, BUT IT SEEMS LIKE EMPTY PROMISES. WE GIVE YOU OUR IDEAS AND OUR FEEDBACK, AND IT ALWAYS SEEMS IN VAIN. NOTHING IS EVER DONE. OUR IDEAS ARE DISCARDED AS SILLY, OR UNIMPORTANT.

So true!! We come up with an idea, but it's not like we are super teens and can get everything organized. Sometimes adults think of us as inferior and think we don't know what we are talking about. I think if we got an idea and stuck to it and had the time, then we could do really new things!! {#67}

I totally agree==it seems like adults only pretend they are interested in what we have to say so they can show that they are caring and listening===in reality, they don't take us seriously, and nothing gets resolved {#78}

Totally, I mean a lot of times adults tell us that we need to grow up, when really they are the ones that need to do the growing up {#90}

That is so true, they tell to come up with ideas, then say that our ideas were dumb or no one will like them, then they come up with their own ideas and make them work instead of using ours {#110}

I agree with this statement. Adults often times tell us that we should be more involved. But do they really mean it? That's why I don't feel completely comfortable with discussing my ideas. Will you really listen? Are they going to be acknowledged? {#139}

I think that is why some teens show little respect for adults because they are always telling us we can't do anything. {#142}

I think #142 had an awesome observation. It's so true. Many teens don't feel they get the respect they deserve from adults, and therefore don't see any reason in respecting them. {#217}

I agree {#288}

11. YOUTH DOES NOT PLAY A VERY BIG PART IN THE COMMUNITY, BUT I ALSO THINK THAT ADULTS DO NOT GIVE THEM MUCH OF A CHANCE TO HELP OUT

Yeah, even if we give them our opinion they'll never take it seriously so it really doesn't matter {#285}
They just think all of our ideas aren't worth their time. (#292)

A lot of adults think they're just kids what do they know about what's good for the community, adults don't even give us a chance, they always think we're too young! (#318)

Responding to all previous comments, use caution when admitting defeat before you've started. We do matter. We make up just as much of the population as they do. Let's be a positive influence wherever we can. Don't give up. Nothing is accomplished that way. (#369)

12. ADULTS ARE SAYING WE WANT YOUR OPINION BUT WHEN DOES OUR OPINION EVER MATTER, I DON'T REMEMBER EVER ANY IDEAS THAT WERE THOUGHT UP BY TEENS EVER BEING USED, IF YOU WANT TEEN HELP USE THEIR IDEAS ONCE IN AWHILE

Totally, totally agree with you..that's all I have to say (#297)

Let's make sure we're being open and patient with them, just as we'd like them to be with us. (#382)

13. I AGREE WITH # 10. ADULTS ALWAYS SAY THAT THEY WANT US TO BE INVOLVED AND THEY WANT US TO DO SOME DECISION MAKING, BUT THEY NEVER DO ANYTHING TO INVOLVE US EXCEPT TO TELL US THAT THEY WANT US TO BE INVOLVED. MOST OF THE TIME IT SEEMS THAT ADULTS TELL US THAT TO PACIFY US.

14. ULTIMATELY, WE ARE THIS CITY'S FUTURE AND WE NEED TO BE A PART OF THE PLANNING AND DECISION MAKING EARLY IN ORDER TO HAVE SUCCESS LATER.

AREAS OF GREATEST POTENTIAL FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THIS COMMUNITY

1. FIND SOMETHING THAT APPEALS TO ALL THE YOUTH SO THEY FEEL WANTED TO BE INVOLVED IN THEIR COMMUNITY

That is exactly true. Once you find a field that you like, you should participate in something in the community. If you're looking into law, volunteer at youth court. If you're into art, work at the plains art museum, or take really cheap art classes at the creative art studio. There are things, if you look hard enough, you can do and have fun. (#145)

I really have not clue (#152)

We should have a branch of student involvement in government and businesses that we can get involved in. (#156)

A teen committee should be working with the city (#165)

If a teen is interested in a career, then the businesses that are the career interest should have programs that allow the teen to visit for a day and have hand on experience in what they are interested in, that might help develop a different level of respect for the youth and the adults involved (#170)

I agree with 170 (#212)

170 THERE IS A JOB SHADOWS PROGRAM. BUT ONCE AGAIN IT IS NOT WIDELY ADVERTISED (#229)

Yes, we need to get things more advertised so youth know what is out there!! (#264)

2. I BELIEVE THAT WE SHOULD HAVE A SAY IN THE DEVELOPMENT OF OUR CITY WE ARE THE ONES THAT WILL BE RUNNING THIS CITY IN THE YEARS TO COME

I completely agree. (#102)

Yes, I agree. Adults should listen to us because we are the youth and they are "supposedly" trying to develop our city so that it appeals to US the youth. Well if they aren't going to listen...how will they know what our opinions are?? (#131)

Maybe we could have like something where maybe we were paired up with a city council member or something so we could learn how to deal with problems. (#166)

We're the future. Therefore we should be the ones to help develop the community that we and our kids will live in. (#242)
We should be able to help participate in the making of new developments in the future because it is talked about how they want the community to appeal to teens more, well, you need to have teen opinions and our help to make the community and new developments appeal to us. (#252)

Even though we are still teens, we need to know how to keep the FM area improving since we are going to be the people running it in the future (#253)

I AGREE #2. IF THEY WANT US TO STAY HERE, AND KEEP MONEY IN OUR ECONOMY, WE SHOULD HAVE SOMETHING TO DO WITH WHAT IS DONE FOR OUR FUTURE, AND THE FUTURE OF OUR CITY. (#63)

ture (#181)
They want us to stay they better let us have a say in things (#187)

I agree. We are the future. (#94)

We really need to start thinking about ways to make our community better, think of ways to help the next generation, get involved in business and gov (#162)

Yah (#213)

TOTAFLY #3----FARGO WANTS US TO STAY HERE BECAUSE IT KNOWS MOST OF US WILL BE GETTING OUT OF HERE WHEN WE LEAVE FOR COLLEGE---IF WE KNOW THAT WHAT WE SAY MAKES NO IMPACT ANYWAY, WHERE'S THE INCENTIVE TO STAY (#118)

That is very true. If they want us to stay here so bad they should start getting us involved in the community so we want to stay. (#240)

I totally agree with this, they make it cheaper to go to college if we stay in state but if we have no part in the city’s development why would we want to stay (#275)

The same group of people cant just decide our future based on what they think we need, without our say, who knows what'll happen to this town, all I know is that no one is gonna want to live here (#329)

3. SOMETHING LIKE A YOUTH CENTER...WHERE YOUTH ACTUALLY WANT TO HANG OUT AND HAVE FUN.

Yes, where there are different activities going on and where activities can be started and where everyone is welcome (#180)

The youth center would be fun, if there weren't adults all over, if it had exercise equipment, basketball, tennis and racquet ball courts. A swimming pool, for both lap and leisure swim. It should have other fun things, like couches, a coffee shop, a fun restaurant, tvs, a place where teens can go out and have fun and not be questioned by adults about what we are doing and that we should be doing something constructive. it should be cheep to belong and partly gov. funded (#203)

That would be good. Exercise clubs have tried to do this but they have failed because they cost too much money. (#219)

I totally agree with 203. It would be cool to get it funded by a sponsor or the city or something so that teens could afford it. (#256)

I think a youth fitness center is a great idea that we can hang out it (#260)

It would also be cool if teens could work there and get involved in running it. (#261)

I agree with 261 (#265)

I think that a youth center is a great idea. I know that a lot of places have tried to get places for youth to go, or give something for the youth to do, but it always cost a lot of money. I think that what they need to realize is that teens don't have an over abundance of money. The best thing in the Fargo/Moorhead area is the dollar theater. It is cheap and gives you something to do for a few hours. (#328)

I really agree with 203. Another idea for that would be to have a place where they can rent videos from. Maybe they could even have VCR's to watch the video's on. (#338)
About 328 ~ Moorhead does have a dollar theater, but from what I've heard, it's kind of disgusting. The area isn't very clean, and it's very confined. No wonder it's a dollar. {#346}

This is a really good idea. Teens need a place to go hang out and be themselves. I think this would be very popular in our area, especially since so many teens feel there is nothing to do. {#348}

346 u are right. That dollar theater is gross, but I guess if u really wanna see a movie and u only got a dollar, why not? {#365}

I agree with #328 {#421}

4. THE GREATEST AREA FOR YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IS IN SOMETHING THE YOUTH ACTUALLY CARE ABOUT. NOT SOMETHING ADULTS WANT US TO CARE ABOUT.

That is so true. A lot of adults think they know what we want but they really don't know. {#234}

To truly make improvement in the community we must really care about the issue we are trying to improve {#235}

That is so true, I mean how can you really give good ideas in something that you aren't really interested in, its kind of hard don't you think {#258}

That is true, adults have no clue what we like and they sometimes have ideas that they think we would like but most teenagers think are stupid {#339}

5. AN UNBIASED STUDENT GOVERNMENT WITH ALL TYPES OF PEOPLE IS A GOOD IDEA

This would be great except for the fact that an unbiased group of people is impossible to come by {#334}

It's all just a popularity contest {#425}

6. IF WE DO HAVE A STUDENT COUNCIL FOR THE CITY, IT SHOULD BE DIVERSE

We should develop a student council for the city {#237}

I agree. That would be really cool if teens could have a city student council to say our ideas and get things done in our city. {#245}

We would have a place to voice our opinions and it would be teens from all different schools which would be really cool. {#251}

This would be cool if we could get it to work. There should be a rep from each school so each school could get their voice in the community and the school rep could coincide with their student council to get the whole school’s opinion {#262}

That is a great idea we could be sort of a liaison between the city and the teens of Fargo {#322}

Those are great ideas, after all we are the future of this town, if we decide to stay here {#345}

A student council for the city would be awesome it should be run like the city commissioners, park board, and school board and should get just as much notice for it too {#347}

Right but often the students that want to be involved in these type of things are the same types of students {#396}

7. MAYBE THE CITY SHOULD COME VISIT OUR STUDENT COUNCILS, OR OTHER GROUPS THAT ARE ADDRESSING THE ISSUES OF YOUTH TODAY AND LISTEN TO WHAT WE HAVE TO SAY. THEY SHOULD COME TO US RATHER THAN THEM PERCEIVING US TO JUST COMPLAIN TO THEM.

Good point. It's not often that leaders come to us for advice or questions or even to ask our opinion. It does seem like if we want anything done, we need to go to them. It needs to go both ways. {#311}

Right on 311, that's exactly what this town needs {#350}

I agree but not about student councils...those aren't represented well {#354}

311 I agree {#357}
I think the student council at my school is represented very well!!!!!!!!!!! {#433}

8. IF THE YOUTHS STARTED SOME SORT OF DANCE CLUB, OR COUNTRY CLUB, I THINK IT WOULD REALLY SPARK INVOLVEMENT. MAYBE THE COMMUNITY JUST NEEDS TO SEE THAT WE ARE READY TO BECOME INVOLVED. THIS WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO SHOW IT.

A city dance would be so much fun! {#287}
I think that this is a great idea. If you start it or are involved in it you are going to feel a connection to it. Also if something is operated by someone, like teens, who know what teens want or like, there will probably be more success in the out come. {#293}

There should be a place for teenagers, a type of country club sounds great! {#295}
Teenagers would feel like they have a part in the community if we got clubs and dances going {#303}
A DANCE CLUB WOULD BE GREAT BECAUSE IT WOULD LAST LONGER THAN JUST ONE EVENT. {#351}

I go to a country club and it does make you feel like you belong to something and it’s a great feeling when you know everybody there. But it couldn’t be as formal but it should be as comfortable and fun {#352}
Not all the dance clubs in Fargo have turned out. We would have to make it extra special and maybe a better environment. Maybe it could be cheaper too. {#364}

Yes it seems like everything besides the dollar theater cost a youth at least 2 hours of their hourly wage if they have a job {#386}

I would definitely support a country club for teens, run by teens and college kids and open to high school students, there could be so many opportunities that could open up if one was to be started, perhaps the government would even give someone a grant to get this on its feet, we should execute this guys!! {#388}

I really want to do this as a project? Does anyone else think this could be something we should REALLY DO? {#401}
I know plus it would employ many college and high school kids which would help increase the money flow in the community to a small percent {#402}

Yes 401 I THINK THAT WE REALLY SHOULD START THIS UP AND SOON {#405}
This sounds so exciting! {#411}
I really think that the teens in this area would like this idea. {#418}
Yep I know I would {#424}

9. GIVE US SOMETHING TO DO. LIKE A PROJECT. WE COULD BUILD SOMETHING OR WE COULD PLAN SOMETHING JUST INVOLVE US

I think we should do charity projects for people, it would be fun and we would be helping the community {#310}
Yea that way everyone wins {#317}
I agree with this idea. We just need to show adults that we are willing to undertake responsibility. {#319}
Exactly a youth center for 15 and up the youth design, decorate arrange organize and etc. {#324}
Yes I think that we could all make a very good difference. {#325}
Yes #324 that is what I was thinking {#332}
I want to do something do be involved in something not just sit and talk about it we all can do that but not everybody will actually do something {#333}
I know us here talking and giving opinions is great but nothing is happening!!! {#336}
I think it is very important for teens to be involved in the community, and helping by doing service projects is a great way for adults to recognize that we are able to do things in our area, too. (#361)

I think we need to do something BIGGER than a service project though. (#363)

I agree 336 we are a diverse group for the most part and if we all put our minds together something could be accomplished but like you said nothing is happening (#375)

Yes but we just need to get out and do something important and helpful to the community. (#376)

Yes 363 (#377)

Does anyone know of any already now projects going on that we could get involved with (#419)

This would help the adults of this community see that we are not all bad (#432)

10. I THINK THAT THERE SHOULD BE PLACES JUST FOR TEENAGERS TO GO AND HANG OUT

Like a dance club? (#304)

I still really like that country club idea. It would be a great way for teens to be involved, and have something to do. It would give them a safe place to hangout. (#313)

Exactly! (#316)

A dance club or a country club would be so much fun and it would give teenagers something to do and not get into trouble (#321)

The country club idea would also be a good thing to spread to other towns and clean up the trouble spots, especially if the place was really desired by the teens in this area (#368)

I think it would be a great place to have fun. Maybe like once a month the country club could have a dance, organized by teens of course. That way we could have a dance too! (#378)

A dance club would be great!!!!! (#430)

11. I LIKE 9'S IDEA ABOUT BUILDING SOMETHING ON OUR OWN, MAYBE THIS COULD BE A CLUB AND WE COULD HELP OUT IN THE COMMUNITY THROUGH PLANNED ACITIVITIES WHILE HAVING FUN AND ATTRACTING OTHER YOUTH.

That is a great idea. This could also provide jobs for kids. (#340)

12. I DON'T THINK THAT IT REALLY MATTERS WHAT TEENS DO, JUST AS LONG AS WE HAVE SOMETHING TO DO. MOST TEENS JUST WANT TO GET OUT OF THE HOUSE FOR A WHILE AND BE WITH THEIR FRIENDS. A COMMUNITY THING WOULD BE A GOOD IDEA, LIKE HELPING WITH THE HOMELESS, OR PLAYING WITH KIDS AT THE CHILDRENS HOSPITAL. WE JUST WANT TO FEEL LIKE WE ARE INVOLVED IN SOMETHING.

13. WE NEED MORE CITY RECOGNITION FOR VOLUNTEERING

I agree, the only time I can remember being recognized for volunteering was during the flood. It makes teens want to work harder when they feel that they are being appreciated for what they are doing. (#370)

I agree also, but I guess I can see the media's perspective (#407)

14. GETTING OUT OF TOWN

For me, I feel that leaving Fargo-Moorhead is where I have learned the most about the world. You can educate and try to teach people about being involved in these activities, but it just isn't the same as actually experiencing them. These opportunities that offer great learning are found in educational trips to other countries, foreign exchange programs, and even traveling cross country to different sorts of leadership camps. (#385)

I agree with #385 (#390)

I definitely agree, being fortunate enough to being able to travel has taught me more then I've ever learned out of a text book (#391)
I agree with you guys, every one needs to get the feel for traveling abroad, perhaps certain organizations could help in this, get groups of kids in high school involved in traveling. Something separate from the churches, because they get so moral, and detract from the whole having fun to learn focus. (#403)

15. I DEFINITELY THINK THIS IS A CHALLENGE FOR THE COMMUNITY. MOST OF US HONESTLY WANT TO GET OUT OF HERE FAST. WHAT DO OTHER AREAS HAVE THAT WE DON'T?

BEST WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUTH IN DECISION MAKING OPPORTUNITIES

1. INVITE YOUTH TO BOARD MEETINGS, BUT GIVE THEM A SAY IN WHAT IS GOING ON

I really think that this would be a good idea, I mean we really should have a say in a lot of the stuff that the school board discusses (#114)

This is a good idea, but I don't know how much say we would have in things. (#140)

Maybe we should listen for a while, but we also need to be heard (#214)

I agree #214 (#216) (#263)

Anyone is able to go to School Board meetings...you don't need an invitation. (#400)

2. I THINK ADULTS NEED TO LET KIDS KNOW THAT THEY CAN BE INVOLVED, LIKE AT MEETINGS FOR EXAMPLE, BUT ADULTS NEED TO LISTEN AND VALUE THE KID'S OPINION

3. STOP TELLING US THAT OUR OPINIONS MATTER, AND START SHOWING US THAT WE MATTER.

I agree. Adults always say that they want our opinions and want to know what we think. We voice our opinions and nothing ever gets done about it. (#91)

We say what we think and then it is put down and disregarded. (#93)

I totally agree!! (#100)

Adults pretend to care about our opinions but never really do anything about it. They are stuck in their ways and think that their ideas are better (#101)

Exactly, adults always think that they are better than us in every way when really our ideas are sometimes just as good as theirs (#127)

Let us see the difference that us teens have made in the community, because that will make us more willing to participate in the opportunities we have. When we are shown that we CAN make a difference and then we are shown the difference we have made that will keep our involvement and interaction with our community bigger. (#167)

We are always told that we can make a difference, and we can, but it would be nice to see the differences we have made. (#173)

I totally agree all the way (#184)

Awesome. . . right on. (#218)

I agree with #167 completely the only way to spark and kindle the fire of youth involvement is to show us the impact we are making. (#308)

4. WE NEED TO KNOW, FROM ADULTS AND COMMUNITY LEADERS, THAT OUR OPINIONS COUNT AND ARE ACTED UPON

I agree. If we present our opinions it would be nice if they were actually accounted for. Are they? It would be nice to see how they are accounted for and the difference that we have made. (#183)

That would be real nice, because you will then know if they are taken forth (#267)

A lot of adults think that teenagers are just trouble, but in reality, most of us are good people who would enjoy helping people in the community (#355)
This initiative is a really good idea but it would also be nice to know if these things are going to be acted upon. We would like to see the results of all this. (#379)

I agree with 379, I'm really interested to see how our opinions on all of these topics will be used in our community. I hope that they really will be considered because many of us feel that it's important to be involved. (#383)

5. THERE SHOULD BE A TEEN COUNSEL THAT MEETS DIRECTLY WITH THE CITY COUNSEL. IF YOU WANT OUR OPINIONS GIVE US THE FACE TIME.

This is a very good idea and really should be acted upon (#137)

Good idea! (#160)

See these are our ideas and we're presented them to you, will you take them into account and actually consider them? (#188)

I agree, a certain group of people needs to be formed so the city knows exactly who to ask. (#243)

6. WHEN INVITING US TO BOARD MEETINGS, IT IS BETTER IF A PERSON COMES TO ASK FOR VOLUNTEERS RATHER THAN SENDING A LETTER. IT JUST SEEMS AS THOUGH IT DOESN'T MATTER WHEN THEY DO THAT.

I agree with this... if adults actually want our opinions, they should ask for them more, then we know they matter. (#176)

Ya me too 176 your cool (#179)

I agree. Personal invitations and questions are better than just surveys or letters. If they actually hear it from us and talk about it, maybe there is a better chance of them listening. (#192)

I agree with 176 (#194)

I don't understand the main statement- what do you mean? (#196)

176- I think if they actually took our opinions and ideas and put them into action, then it would let us know we matter (#331)

7. YOUTH DON'T NEED ANY MORE ENGAGING WE NEED AN INVITATION

Really, that's the truth (#193)

I agree. (#199)

Of course, we are willing to discuss our opinions but it's not often that we're invited to do so. (#200)

I strongly agree!! (#202) (#314)

8. WE NEED TO KNOW THAT WE ARE WANTED AND THAT OUR OPINIONS COUNT AND ARE GOING TO BE USED AND THAT WE WILL BE LISTENED TO, BUT ALSO THAT WE WILL LISTEN TO OTHERS

That is true we also need to listen to each other and to adults opinions. Sometimes teens automatically think that adults are wrong and don't even give them a chance. (#420)

9. SHOW ADULTS THAT WE ARE REALLY RESPONSIBLE, AND WANT TO BE INVOLVED.

10. IF YOU SHOW TEENS THAT WE CAN MAKE CHANGES IN OUR COMMUNITY, AND OUR IDEAS DO MATTER, THAN THEY WOULD BE MORE WILLING TO GIVE INPUT.

11. COULD SOMEONE TELL ME WHY PARENTS AND ADULTS SAY THEY CARE ABOUT OUR THOUGHTS AND IDEAS BUT REALLY THEY DON'T? IT JUST REALLY MAKES ME UPSET

I know! Adults think that all teenagers are trouble! It makes me mad too, but what can we do? It would be fun to get teenagers involved in the community, but I don’t think that we could get enough youth to make a difference in the opinions adults have of us (#373)

12. It seems as though teachers and counselors don't even care anymore
I disagree. I have teachers who ask me in class or pull me aside later to ask me if I had questions because they thought I looked confused. They help with extending deadlines for major problems and they continually do this for dozens of students. I have noticed the same thing with my counselor. Even counselors who are not "assigned" to me will help me out or do something for me without cause. {#342}

Yes, it seems the counselors at our school have absolutely no involvement with us. They only help us with our schedules {#434}

13. I DISAGREE WITH 12. I HAVE PERSONALLY FOUND MANY CARING STAFF AT MY SCHOOL, HOWEVER, IT VARIES FROM ONE INSTITUTION TO THE NEXT AND I KNOW THIS IS A PROBLEM, BUT YOU CAN'T SAY THEY JUST "DON'T CARE". MAYBE I AM IN AN UNCOMMON POSITION.

14. I DON'T THINK THAT ADULTS TAKE US SERIOUSLY. THEY REALLY DON'T THINK THAT WE WANT TO DO ANYTHING BUT GIVE THEM OUR INPUT. THEY DON'T THINK THAT WE REALLY WANT TO HELP.

15. I DISAGREE WITH # 12. AT MY SCHOOL TEACHERS AND COUNSELORS DO CARE, BUT THEY HAVE A LOT TO CARE ABOUT. THEY CAN'T JUST DROP EVERYTHING THEY ARE DOING TO HELP ONE PERSON. WE ARE JUST BEING NAIVE TO THINK THAT THE WORLD REVOLVES AROUND US AND WHAT WE THINK.

I agree...nicely said! {#409}

WHAT ARE THE BARRIERS TO YOUTH INVOLVEMENT IN THIS COMMUNITY

1. SOME ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY NEED TO REALIZE THAT TEENS ARE GOOD PEOPLE. SOMETIMES I THINK TEENS HAVE GOOD IDEAS, BUT SOME ADULTS DON'T THINK OF THEM THAT WAY

I agree. We have a bad reputation and are stereotyped. We are responsible and need to be respected. {#77}

All teens are not responsible that is why we have this problem. If other teens picked up their end maybe that opinion would change. {#115}

I agree {#121}

TRUE {#175}

That's true, but you can't judge every teen by those few news reports about a teen getting killed by another teen who was drinking and driving. It's not fair to us. {#195}

That is exactly right. Adults rely too much on statistics rather than the facts. {#211}

Teens somehow have this bad reputation. We don't have good ideas, we don't matter, we're not responsible. It seems that adults just aren't willing to listen because of how we're stereotyped {#221}

STEREOTYPING IS A HUGE ISSUE!!! {#233}

ADULTS ARE JUST CONCERNED WITH THEIR NEEDS, AND NOT OURS. {#268}

Teens are definitely stereotyped {#270}

2. STUDENTS DON'T FEEL THAT THEY WILL BE TAKEN SERIOUSLY IF THEY WERE TO GO TO A SCHOOL BOARD MEETING--ADULTS JUST SAY "OH THEY ARE JUST KIDS" BUT STUDENTS HAVE THE MOST VALUABLE INFO TO GIVE AT THOSE MEETINGS BECAUSE THEY EXPERIENCE THESE PROBLEMS FIRST HAND

IF ADULTS WANT TO FIND OUT WHAT ARE OUR INTERESTS IN THE COMMUNITY, THEY SHOULD TAKE THE OPPORTUNITIES THEY HAVE TO LISTEN TO US SERIOUSLY BECAUSE WE ARE THE NEXT GENERATION. {#88}

This is so true {#119}

One of my friends went to a meeting to protest a belief. I remember he was so prepared and excited to voice his belief. He went there and did it and they said they would get back to him if they decided
anything. They never changed anything. He pretty much just got shot down, when his complaint was very valid. (#136)

136. That's just sad, I can't believe that they did that to him, he should get some other people together that share in his belief and go back and speak to them again (#163)

Yes!! (#164)

I agree, we know what we're talking about and we can really help out because we experience these things. (#395)

3. ONE OF THE THINGS THAT IS A BARRIER FOR ME TO GET INVOLVED AT TIMES IS THAT ADULTS I KNOW TEND TO THINK OF YOUTH AS PEOPLE WHO DON'T KNOW WHAT THEY'RE DOING AND ARE COMPLETELY IMMATURE. THEY TEND TO THINK THAT THEY KNOW BETTER THAN US SOMETIMES.

That is so true!! Adults only sometimes take us seriously sometimes. They think that we can't handle the responsibilities. But that doesn't mean all teens are responsible, but the ones that are shouldn’t be punished for something someone else did. (#189)

I agree... (#206)

Ya sometimes that's true sometimes (#208)

Only sometimes sometimes (#210)

But stereotyping us is really common. (#259)

Adults should be more focused on teaching us and helping us along, then telling us what we are doing wrong (#266)

I agree that sometimes we are immature but that is what makes us fun. I think that teens would be good at making decision on all this stuff as we are more flexible and open to different ideas. (#387)

DEFINETLY #3---TEENAGERS THESE DAYS HAVE SUCH A BAD REPUTATION YET I AM ON OUR SCHOOLS KEY CLUB AND I DONT THINK I HAVE EVER SEEN SO MANY KIDS INTERESTED IN SERVING THEIR COMMUNITY (#39)

I love Key Club! It's a great way to get involved in our community! (#73)

I think that many teens want to help out and do volunteer work. It would be nice for them to be recognized more. (#399)

266-by telling us what we are doing wrong, they are in fact teaching us by correcting us. (#429)

4. SOMETIMES ADULTS DO KNOW BETTER THAN US, BUT WE ARE JUST CAST OUT LIKE WE AREN'T IMPORTANT. OUR IDEAS ARE THOUGHT OF AS WRONG. WHEN WE ASK FOR SOMETHING LIKE FINAL EXEMPTIONS THEY THINK IT'S BECAUSE WE ARE LAZY AND DON'T WANT TO DO THE WORK, WHEN FOR MOST OF US THAT'S NOT TRUE.

Totally,,, we just aren't taken seriously and it is frustrating! (#92)

Agree (#107)

Well some teens just joke around about it they don't take it seriously like other teens. Things should be taken way more seriously by teens. (#124)

Very true (#143)

I wish our opinions counted more, and not just ignored. (#158)

I agree. Our opinions are just as important as anyone else. (#161)

We are the future and they keep telling us that, so why don't they listen to us? (#168)

Sometimes adults don't understand where we are coming from. I think we should take more time to show them what we think (#174)
I think adults also experience peer pressure in the area of helping teens and changing what youth want.  
381, what do mean by peer pressure in the area of helping teens?  Do you mean from other adults or are they pressured by teens.  

5. WE NEED TO BE GIVEN OPPORTUNITIES TO BE INVOLVED IN DECISION MAKING, AND WE NEED TO BE ENCOURAGED AND GUIDED BY ADULTS, NOT DICTATED TO OR ORDERED AROUND BY THEM

Yes, we aren't adults, so we haven't had as much experience as them in the real world. They need to help guide us.  
I agree.  Adults should encourage us and agree with us. Sometimes it seems like a constant battle between who is right, the teens or the adults.  If we both cooperate we could work together and our voices could be heard.  
Yes, guide is the key word there. Sometimes we need to take action and lead though  
I totally agree.  And I don't think some adults understand that!  
Yes, we need to be given direction as to what we can do---we can't just know what to do without any guidance  
Right on #6  
If adults are interested in giving us guidance, then we will know that they actively want us to participate in issues  
I agree with #224  

ADULTS DON'T TRUST US WITH MAKING BIG DECISIONS. WE NEED TO PROVE WE ARE READY.  
I agree. The only way we can learn is through experience, and if adults say we're too young or not responsible yet to make decisions then how can we mature so that we can?  

6. SOMETIMES THE YOUTH DON'T HAVE TRANSPORTATION, OR THE MONEY TO DO THINGS. THERE ARE ALWAYS TIMES WHEN THEY CAN GO THROUGH THE SCHOOL TO GET HELP, BUT THEY ARE TOO EMBARRASSED. ALSO, PERSONAL FEELINGS ARE AN ISSUE WHEN PEOPLE DECIDED WHETHER OR NOT TO ATTEND THINGS.

7. THE BIGGEST BARRIER FOR ME TO GET OVER IS THE FEELING THAT THIS ISSUE IS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ME THAT I WANT TO PRESENT IT TO SOMEBODY. THE MINUTE I DO IT'S COMPLETELY REJECTED BY THE ADULT I TELL IT TO. I KNOW MANY TIMES MOST KIDS HAVE AGREED WITH ME. THAT IS WHY I DON'T UNDERSTAND WHY THEY NEVER TAKE US SERIOUSLY. THAT KIND OF REJECTION IS FRIGHTENING.

Agree. It will also snuff future attempts to help change the youth involvement.

8. SOMETIMES ADULTS DONT HAVE TIME FOR YOUTH AND BRUSH THEM OFF, THEN THE YOUTH FEEL LEFT OUT OR UNIMPORTANT

True!! To help our community expand in the future, adults should not just blow off our ideas, but help us to improve them and show us what they are thinking. If we work together, then it would all work out.

9. ADULTS SAY THAT WE NEED TO BE QUIET AND DO AS WE ARE TOLD, BUT ADULTS ALSO NEED TO BE QUIET AND LISTEN TO US, BECAUSE WE REALLY DO HAVE GOOD AND INTELLIGENT THINGS TO SAY

I totally agree with you

Yes!!1

I know! We are not stupid and we do have good ideas!

Exactly!!!!!
10. I AGREE WITH, 10 BUT NOW WE HAVE TO ASK OURSELVES AS TEENS WHAT WE ARE GOING TO DO ABOUT IT

11. DUE TO ALL OF THESE THINGS, TEENS MAY BE DISCOURAGED FROM TRYING. THERE NEEDS TO BE AN ACKNOWLEDGEMENT THAT THEIR INPUT IS IMPORTANT AND NEEDED. MANY DON'T GET INVOLVED BECAUSE THEY FEEL THEY CAN'T MAKE A DIFFERENCE.

I know! So many teenagers think that because they are just one they can not make a difference, but if we all work together we will make a difference!!! {#427}

12. I DON'T BELIEVE THAT ADULTS REALIZE HOW IMPORTANT THE YOUTH IS!!! AND THAT WITHOUT US THERE WILL BE NO TOMORROW

Exactly, but so many adults think we are not mature enough to make important decisions! I think that most teenagers are very mature {#404}

13. THE TIME BARRIER

If there is going to be something happening in the FM area, chances are it will not happen for at least a year, so we need to get the Jr. High kids involved because they are the ones who will be running these programs that we suggest. {#358}

THE TIME COMMITMENT IS DEFINITELY THE GREATEST BARRIER FOR ME. {#371}

358......your a genius {#389}
Great idea 358 {#412}

14. AN ISSUE OF TIME FOR ADULTS. FOR EXAMPLE THE SCHOOL BOARD, GOVERNMENT OR WHATEVER GROUP YOU GO TO HAS OTHER ISSUES BESIDES YOUTH. WE HAVE TO REMEMBER WE ARE ONLY ONE GROUP.

That is very true, but that doesn't mean we can't make a difference {#392}

15. WHAT BLOCKS TEENS IDEAS FROM GETTING OUT? ADULTS! A LOT OF ADULTS DON'T THINK THAT WE KNOW WHAT SHOULD BE DONE FOR OUR COMMUNITY. I THINK ADULTS SHOULD THINK AGAIN. WE ARE THE ONES THAT WILL BE RUNNING THIS CITY IN 10-20 YEARS IF WE WANT TO MAKE CHANGES LISTEN TO US!

If we want them to accept our ideas, we need to present them in a way that is together, professional, and constructive. This means we need to go beyond what we see as good for ourselves and see the big picture. Maybe then our ideas would be taken seriously. {#414}

We need to be willing to learn too. {#416}

16. THE HARD TRUTH IS THAT YOUTH ARE IGNORANT ON MANY LEVELS. WE ARE LIMITED BY OUR INEXPERIENCE AND WE NEED TO UNDERSTAND THAT THERE ARE SOME THINGS THAT ARE NOT OUR BUSINESS

17. I THINK ONE MAJOR PROBLEM IS THAT THE SHY OR QUIET PEOPLE WHO TAKE A STEP BACK AND MAY REALIZE THE ISSUES BETTER THAN SOMEONE WHO IS OPEN AND VOCAL DOESN'T HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO OR IS SCARED TO BRING UP THE ISSUE.

18. ADULTS DO NOT GIVE US A CHANCE TO HELP, LIKE FOR THE PAST 3 YEARS I ALWAYS WOULD HELP OUT IN THE DAY OF CARING, BUT THIS YEAR THEY SAID THEY JUST WANTED ADULTS!

That's really too bad, especially since you've already had experience. what a blow- to say that after 3 years you're still not "adult enough" to be involved in this program. {#423}

19. SIMPLE MINDED OPINIONATED ADULTS. THEY ASK OUR OPINIONS BUT REALLY JUST WANT TO "CHAT" THEN THEY IMMEDIATELY TELL US NO! THAT'S NOT HOW IT IS. THIS IS WHAT CUTS THE COMMUNICATION.

20. KIDS HAVE THE RIGHT TO BE GOOFY

All the time? {#426}
I believe that kids should be kids, and have opportunities to have fun. We can still show our responsibilities, but adults shouldn't make us grow up too fast, even if that means we sacrifice some of our decisions. {#431}

21. I THINK THAT IT IS VERY NARROW-MINDED FOR PARENTS/ADULTS DON'T THINK THAT OUR OPINIONS MATTER. THEY DON'T KNOW WHAT GOES ON IN SCHOOL, EVEN THOUGH THEY THINK THEY DO. THEY NEVER GET OUR OPINIONS FOR FUN THINGS TO DO, THEN THEY WONDER WHY THEIR IDEAS NEVER SEEM TO FLY WITH THE YOUTH. HAVING THAT TRAIN OF THOUGHT IS LIKE HAVING A PLUMBER FIX YOUR COMPUTER, THEY HAVE NO IDEA WHAT THEY ARE DOING, EXCEPT THAT THEY NEED TO FIX A COMPUTER.
GDC Evaluation (Survey)

Questions and Choices in Original Order

1. How did this session work for you?

- I think this session went extremely well! We discussed a lot!
- It was pretty good--it was fun hearing what other people had to say on issues that concern us all.
- It worked well. I learned a lot.
- The session worked just great. It was a lot of fun. We also got a lot done!
- It worked very well. I learned a lot of other people's opinions, and I feel as though I put forth my own very nicely.
- I thought it was really effective and a great idea to use computer conversation instead of talking.
- I think this was a GREAT idea. It worked very well and I feel that we might get somewhere from this meeting.
- I think this session worked very well for me.
- It was good, we got to get our voice heard.
- Great, it was a lot of fun, I feel like I have a voice in the community.
- I thought it was great! We had a lot of new ideas brainstorming in the community!
- This was awesome. I think adults like you guys are really starting to recognize teens and that they need to be involved. We need more adults like you!!
- I liked it a lot. It was cool to see what other teens said about it. I liked voicing my opinions anonymously too.
- I think I got all our ideas out there.
- This session worked because we weren't necessarily talking face to face it was more anonymous.
- I think that it was really fun and interesting, it was nice being able to discuss things with other teens without having to be judged by who you were.
- It is a great way for us to get our ideas out.
- I thought the computer idea was great. A lot of youth aren't that outspoken so it comes easy to write what we feel.
- I liked the computers too. Writing is a lot easier than speaking for me.
- I truly enjoyed it. It is great to know that there our people out there that want to know what we think. I look forward to coming back.
- I think the typing this is a good idea because a lot of people don't feel comfortable voicing their opinions.
- This allowed us to talk more freely.
- It was a great way for me to express my opinion!!
- It worked well and I hope that some of what was discussed can really happen.

I THOUGHT THAT IT WENT VERY WELL, I JUST WISH NOW THAT PEOPLE USE THIS INFORMATION AND THAT ADULTS IN THE COMMUNITY LISTEN AND DO SOMETHING WITH THIS.

I thought this session worked really well for me. I was surprised how many opinions I have about certain subjects that I never even realized.

I think that the session went extremely well! I am glad I have a part in the community!
It was a little chaotic, I like being able to discuss ideas consistently, but I do like the way that everyone can talk to each other.

I think this session went very well. I saw a lot of good ideas that I think should really be considered. I hope that our input has helped out and that it will really make a difference.

I liked the fact that it was confidential you could say what you wanted

I wasn't afraid to say anything, because it was all very anonymous. I really liked it this way, but it seemed hard to focus on just one or two topics. I don't think that everyone got to everything.

The computer "talking" is great. Everyone gets to give their input and it's all recorded. It's very low pressure.

It was great it got the opinion out there but didn't pass judgment on any one person.

This session was good because it threw a lot of people's ideas around and got people talking more about issues we face

This session was very interesting I have never been to anything like this before, but one thing is next time I would like to be better informed and informed about the meeting a couple days prior to the meeting

I think that this session worked very well. It was very easy to do. I liked that it was anonymous.

I think this is a good way for quiet people to have a voice. It is also nice to have everyone's comments right there in front of you for reference.

This session worked great for me, I think it is a great idea, especially the computers. The only thing was the problem with lunch it was kind of early to have to eat at 11. I hope these ideas will be acted on.

I like the idea of sticking to one or two subjects a meeting instead of "saving the world" in one day.

THIS WAS AN EXCELLENT OPPORTUNITY. I WISH GDC'S LIKE THIS WERE IN OTHER SCHOOLS AROUND THE AREA AS WELL.

This was a great way to say what we wanted to say honestly, without interruption and it was fun to hear everyone's ideas.

Yeah maybe limiting it would be a little better

2. **What worked well?**

   The fact that everyone offered constructive comments==no one criticized anyone for their beliefs

   Everyone was free to voice their opinions without being made fun of or put down.

   Not many people have a group of teens just sit down and voice their opinions. It was great. Thanks

   I LOVED the computers. It makes it a lot easier to voice your opinions without feeling bad about what you said. Also you can get done a lot quicker.

   All the comments were taken seriously

   The anonymous part and every one said something

   The computers also

   The computer interaction, there was no interrupting or put downs, or anger, people could say what they really thought without thinking twice about it

   The fact that it is anonymous is nice. Then your opinion can be heard and have constructive criticism without anger.

   Just the not having to say thing in front of the whole group

   Just how we communicate on the computer makes us cover more areas.

   The anonymous factor made everyone free to talk

   I also liked that it was anonymous
You didn’t feel like what will other people think about this or anything
I think the whole anonymous computer interactive worked really well. You didn't have to worry about what you were saying or who you were it to!!
I liked that we worked with computers and that you as adults have taken us seriously and are listening to our ideas.
I like how everything is done electronically so we don't have to worry about put downs and no one knows who wrote what so everything is considered and no one can put your ideas down.
Every one had such great input. Way to go guys
The fact that we talked over computers made us able to get a lot more done in a small amount of time
I really liked the fact that it was anonymous. I felt like my voice was really heard.
We got a lot of good ideas out in a short amount of time. This was a really good idea
I think that we all had a good part and gave some very good ideas!
Yeah it was easy,,, and students could be honest because of the anonymous.
I liked how it was anonymous so I could say whatever I wanted without being put down
The fact that I could say what I wanted and no-one knew who was saying what
That everyone said what they wanted
Technology made this go very smooth and quick.
Everything went smoothly, the computers were great and easy to use, I felt equal in my perspective to the rest of the group
Many ideas could be expressed at once, so it was a good use of time.
Quiet, nice surroundings.
Working on computers we could all input our thoughts about issues we were concerned about without having to wait for others to approach the subject or interruptions.
I liked how it was anonymous... that way I don't have to be embarrassed of what I have to say
BEING ANONYMOUS WAS A DEFINITE PLUS.
The fact that you could say anything was very nice. That we wouldn't have to be worried about voicing our opinions
I liked the fact that we got to type on computers instead of writing it out by hand. It made it go a lot faster, and I think that people put more down on computers then they would have if they had to write it down.
No interjections from heated personalities!
I felt like I could say things that I may not have said verbally because it was anonymous.

3. **What suggestions would you make to improve the next meeting?**

There aren't many that I can think of. Better parking! j/k.
None! It was great, and a lot of fun!
I think we need to discuss more solutions to the problems we discussed. I felt that everyone was just throwing comments out but not offering any help on what to do to remedy the problem
I thought it was great! Thanx!!!!
This is great, I love it. Don't change a thing.
I can not think of any thing
It was good
I thought it was good just the way it was.
I can't think of anything, now that I understand how these computers work.
I can't really think of anything to add. I thought it was great.
We missed lunch so I am hungry!
NONE!
A short break to stand up and stretch out legs
A short break would be nice, other than that nothing
I am really hungry too. WE missed lunch too.
I can't say at all, it was great
A break would be nice
No change for the next meeting
Let's have lunch next time, or bagels or something.
Yeah a break to get something to drink...my throat is parched and my legs are cramped! But other then that nothing!!!!
I think we need a break so we can go to the bathroom and EAT!!
A little shorter, have some more food since we didn't get to eat, be more informed next time, and that I just wish I had eaten lunch
I think we need to concentrate on stating problems and solutions. A lot of things were personal complaints that can't be changed.
A LUNCH BREAK WOULD BE NICE.
More lighting in here...if it is possible.
Eat lunch!
Maybe just stick to a couple subjects, per day.
I thought it was great, also I like how it was anonymous, students tend to not talk as much if we were just talking amongst each other, face to face.
Better communication. I wasn't fully aware of this meeting until 8:00 this morning and was not aware of the fact that we weren't getting lunch.
More discussions where everybody discussed one idea at a time. Everyone just said comments on all sorts of comments. More concentration on the topics.
I think a debate section would be good
A small 3 minute break would be nice. WE NEED LUNCH!!!! Other than that it was great, it went really fast.
Maybe a short break, other than that thank you for the opportunity, it was great.

4. Next times for meetings--evenings/Saturday/Sunday

Evenings or Saturdays
Sunday afternoon
That way we don't have to miss school
I would say weekend evenings or afternoons
Sat or Sun mornings would work
I think Sunday evenings would work better for me because school activities take up a lot of my time
I think Sun evening
Sunday afternoon
I work a lot at night, these times are fine with me, Saturdays work, as well as Sunday afternoons.
I think that Sunday afternoons or evenings are the best for me.
It was fun to get out of class though
Sunday afternoons 10-3 or Saturday mornings
Sunday afternoon or evening, then I have less conflicts
I would say maybe afternoons any day
Haha I liked missing school but yes...Sundays would probably be best.
Definitely Saturday mornings.
Mornings are great too because I usually don't do anything in the morning
Weeknights are not very good and weekends are usually very busy.
Sundays
Sunday evening
I would say not Sundays because a lot of families have activities going on, and it's sort of a day when you can have no interruptions as a family.
Getting out of school for the morning was not a big deal either.
Nope not at all
Yeah, school days are just fine
Getting out of school in the mornings work
Sunday afternoons
During school might be the easiest way to work around all of us.
I'm not totally sure, sorry
On Sundays there is mandatory Youth Symphony, just in case anyone else has it
Sunday evenings are great. During the week there are so many school events at night, and during the day takes away from school.
Wednesdays or Sundays, definitely not another day, I have a real busy schedule
I am involved in sports so I don’t really have time in the evenings or weekends...sorry
I think that this time worked very well, Sundays would also work!
Sunday or Wed. work really well
Sundays would be great anytime during the day would be perfect
Sunday afternoon-Seniors are trying to get exempt from finals, we don't want to miss too many days of school
NOT on school nights or Saturdays. I like during the school day, but if not, than I suppose Sunday afternoon or night.
Getting out of school was really exciting!!
Sundays don't work at all. Afternoons are much more conducive than mornings, but Tuesdays or Thursdays would work better.
Weekdays, afternoon not after 4 though
During school otherwise I would have too many conflicting activities
Wednesdays or Thursdays, but not weekends. Afternoons also would work.

During the school day worked well or else Sunday afternoons.

I'd be good for Sundays

SATURDAYS WORK BAD FOR ME. A SUN. AFTERNOON OR NIGHT WOULD BE PREFERABLE.
DURING SCHOOL IS BEST.

School days are great. I think that during school would work the best because school days are always open for people. It was easy for transportation too.

Definitely too busy after school to the evenings so Sundays or during school, and I'm not just saying this to get out of school.