



Intermedia Arts
Inspiring social change through the arts for 40 years



“*State Of Using*”, produced by the Minnesota Youth Council, and created by youth through Intermedia Arts of Minneapolis, tells the story of how substance abuse impacted the lives of young people across Minnesota. This guide or portions of it, may be used or adapted to the needs of your group to promote discussion of the film.

- What stood out to you the most about this film?

- What did you hear about why the people in the film started using drugs?
 - Noah
 - Matt
 - Leon
 - Alex
 - Kanasha

- Do any of the stories in this video remind you of people you know? How?

- Is it easy to get alcohol.....drugs.....prescription drugs....?
 - Do students in your school smoke weed before school or during lunch? *How do you know? Do teachers in your school recognize the signs that someone has been using?*

- How did using affect the relationships of the people in this film? School – home – friends?
 - Using helped them escape from their emotions and reality – do you ever feel as if life is too hard and you want to escape? *What are some options for dealing with struggles of life that don't involve using drugs or alcohol?*

- Is there someone you can talk to if you are depressed, overwhelmed or suicidal? *What are things that your school or community could do to help youth know where to go for help when they need it?*

- Did the young people feel they had control over whether they used or not?

- What made these kids decide to change?

- Are there other things that you have experienced or observed that help youth make the decision to not use or to change?
- How did family members in the film influence these kids....for good? For bad?
- Did anyone notice a link between parent/guardian use of alcohol or drugs and the kids?
- Why do you think parents stay “in denial” so long when they suspect their child may be in trouble with alcohol or drugs?
- How did using affect other members of the family?
- If you had a party and a friend came who had used, or was using, would you ask them to leave? Why or why not?
- How can your school or community support recovering addicts?
- What would a community or school need to do to create an environment where students feel supported so that they do not use alcohol or drugs?

Parents Guide

- What did the parents say about recognizing the signs that their child was using?
- Why do you think parents stay “in denial” so long when they suspect their child may be in trouble with alcohol or drugs?
- What kinds of resources do you think are needed for parents in these situations?
- Do you know where you would go if you needed help finding resources and support for both you and your child?

