

Call for Submissions for possible publication in “Rational Enquirer”, a statewide publication of the Oregon Teen Pregnancy Task Force, on adolescent sexual health and related issues.

Submission Due Date: FRIDAY, November 21, 2008

Article Length: Average 600 – 3,500 characters (maximum allowed 6,000 characters)

Theme: “Today’s Youth Tomorrow’s Voice”

We are looking for articles related to adolescent sexuality with this theme. Submissions from youth are encouraged. Written articles, essays, pictures, poetry, and original art submissions accepted.

Expected Publication Date: April 2009. Circulation: 5,000 statewide (through conferences, schools, health centers, community agencies).

If you are planning to submit an article or other item or if you know of a great article from another source that would be appropriate for this publication, please contact Jessica Duke, Program Coordinator, Adolescent Sexual Health ASAP.

jessica.duke@state.or.us

971-673-0242

The Rational Enquirer is a publication about sexual health and all articles should be related to some aspect of healthy sexuality. This year’s theme is “Today’s Youth, Tomorrow’s Voice” and to that end, articles that fit with that theme will be given priority for publication. Consider –

- *What voices are youth bringing to the table today?
- *What future are youth envisioning?
- *What would a young person tell the new president? (e.g. “Dear Mr. President” letter)
- *Interviews with parents, other adults - What were youth like back in their day? How has their youth affected their voice?
- *What youth want to know about sexual health and how they want to find out.
- *Teen Pregnancy and Parenting on TV (Baby Borrowers, Secret Life of the American Teenager, in the news)
- *Media influence on self image and self esteem, good influence and unrealistic influence
- *Artists, musicians, actors, choosing good role models to emulate
- *School influence- peers, classes- peer judgment
- *Tolerance for new things, seeing all sides, sharing credit and blame, alienation
- *How teens can be strong influences for well-being in the lives of others
- *Tomorrows voice, also tomorrow’s “ear”- the generation that shares the microphone- gives equal time to all, listens to all viewpoints and efforts, encourages all to speak and be heard
- *Sexual health and finding our voices- speaking up, advocating for what is good for the world and us

To see past issues of the Rational Enquirer go to:

<http://www.oregon.gov/DHS/ph/ah/re/re.shtml>

Rational Enquirer Article Guidelines

The Rational Enquirer is a conversational publication about adolescent sexual health; the writing style should be factual, yet informal and easy to read. Our readership consists of a wide variety of ages and backgrounds: teens themselves, parents (teen and post-teen, single and partnered), educators, health care professionals, and social services staff. Every article need not address every reader, but every issue should have something of interest for this wide range of readers.

Overall Approach: The best approach is to make your article something you yourself would want to read. We want stories that reflect the lives and needs of young people. If you have examples or personal stories that will help illustrate your point, by all means include them.

Quotes: We encourage the use of them, in fact, we like them very much to personalize the story, but be sure they're accurate.

Polish: Completeness: Stories do not need to be completely polished before submitting, but please pass them at least twice through the computer. It helps to read the story aloud; it may also help to have a friend, colleague or family member comment on your draft.

Make sure your story is as nearly complete as possible. If there are gaps in narrative or facts, note this in the text so we can follow up on it.

Accuracy: Please fact check your article before sending it in. Please make sure all names and proper nouns are spelled correctly and are complete. Please check all phone numbers and Web URLs for accuracy.

Title: Provide one if you like, but understand that the editor may change it.

Article length: The upper limit on stories is 6,000 characters (including spaces), and these are major articles. Most stories should be between 600 and 3,500 characters.

We reserve the right to edit all stories to fit allocated space and guidelines.

Non-written materials: Color photographs 300 dpi. Graphics 600 dpi.

Manuscript mechanics: Do not use fancy fonts or design elements. We'll only change the font and delete the design, as they interfere with editing. We prefer Times New Roman, 12 point, black, please.

Please include your complete name and contact information on the manuscript. We encourage folks to put contact info so readers can have further conversation, so the contact info will be published as the author prefers. Sometimes they may not want to provide info. It's also a good place to have a website link for the agency they work with as a bit of free publicity.