

Preparing Youth to Succeed in a Complicated World

February 2015

“Using the Media to Promote Adolescent Well-Being”

by Elisabeth Hirschhorn Donahue, Ron Haskins, and Marisa Nightingale

Overview: The article addresses the problem of unsupervised use of media by adolescents, which may expose them to the negative messages about sex, smoking, drinking, and consumer goods among others that will harm their well-being. Instead of limiting their use of media, this article proposes “Fighting fire with fire” by providing positive alternatives to counteract those harmful messages. This article uses examples to show how social marketing campaigns deliver positive messages to youth by using media creatively. It includes counter-marketing, embedding positive information into commercial media, creating new forms of media and directly involving teenagers in the process. The final goal is to reach “positive messaging” to shape youth behavior.

Where to Find It:

Go to the OSTRC Document Library, then click on the “Child & Adolescent Development & Empowerment” tab on the left. Find the report under the “Adolescents and Youth Culture” section.

“After-School Grows Up: Helping Teens Prepare for the Future”

by The Forum for Youth Investment

Overview: This article addresses the challenges in preparing youth to be ready for college, work and life by providing supports. The strategies it identifies include high school reform, dropout prevention, workforce readiness, college access and success, civic engagement and high school after-school offerings. Focusing on the strategy of building after-school programs, this article gives us a cross-country tour of how those after-school programs helped youth face their challenges during transitional periods. It includes maximizing opportunities for students to participate various activities, supporting students’ voices to reduce cultural conflicts, improving attendance numbers for older youth, and combining school and after-school learning.

Where to Find It:

Go to the OSTRC Document Library, then click on “Child & Adolescent Development & Empowerment” tab on the left. Find the report under the “Personal Development and Life Skills” section.

Featured Information:

“New Research Reveals Top Ten Skills for 2020”

by the Subcommittee for
Education in the New Global
Economy

Summary:

In an effort to prepare youth to participate in the fast-paced, technology-driven 21st century workplace, this article lists top ten skills that could help them navigate through the competition. Some of them are identified as:

- Good Communication skills/Ability to work in teams/Ability to build relationships
- Ability to think critically/Strong problem solving skills/Practical application of Knowledge
- Better communication between the K-12 system and higher education and educating students to prepare them for transitions.

The authors discuss their research and more skills in great detail.

Where to find the full article:

Go to the OSTRC Document Library, then click on the “Activities, Content, and Curriculum” tab on the left. Find the report under the “Workforce Development” section.
