Don’t Even Start!

Introduction: Smoking is detrimental to health. The vast majority of adult smokers began smoking as teenagers. In this lesson, students will become experts and develop their own campaigns to prevent teens from lighting up.

Grade Level and Subject: Seventh and Eighth Grade Health and Language Arts

TEKS: Health: 4a, 4c, 5h, 5j, 8a, 8b  
Language Arts: 8b, 8c, 8d, 13d, 13f, 13I, 24a, 24b

Materials: computers with PowerPoint software, projector

Resources: anti-smoking program materials, health textbook, science textbook

Websites:
- http://www.notobacco.org
- http://www.keepkidsfromsmoking.com
- http://library.thinkquest.org/12153/smoking.html

Activity: Divide class into groups of three or four. Each group is to research teen smoking and present a PowerPoint presentation, which will be their personal anti-smoking campaign for their peers. Each presentation should include, but is not limited to, the following information:

- What is in cigarettes?
- Why is smoking addictive?
- How is cigarette smoking harmful?
- Why do teens start smoking?
- Statistics
- How does cigarette advertising target teens? Include and analyze examples.
- How can teens avoid smoking?
- An original campaign slide to prevent teens from smoking
- Sources

Presentations should be persuasive and creative and should include visual as well as printed information.

Evaluation: Evaluate presentations based on the inclusion and elaboration of the above criteria.