

We want to think about these issues in four ways:

1. MA
2. Bay Area
3. America
4. World

MA's Social Culture

TOPIC ONE: Drugs & Alcohol use/abuse (Becca, Henry, Julia, Michael)

- *Why do MA students drink? Why do MA students use drugs?*
- Party scene:
 - recreational drug use
 - “partying” is actually just drinking
 - underclassmen/upperclassmen
 - variation in drugs/alcohols within bay area/national schools
 - party reputation --> pictures
 - “acting drunk”
 - drunk/high driving?
 - Availability of drugs & alcohol??
 - Idea of getting drunk as a way to avoid consequences??
- Hook-up culture:
 - relationships
 - the fall of dating?
 - role of drugs/alcohol in hook-ups
 - commitment-free?
- Collection of quotes (like boys in rape culture piece):
 - opinions on hook-up culture/dating
 - heavy drinkers/stoners vs. substance-free people vs. middle ground
 - role of partying in social scene
- Rape culture:
 - does it exist at MA?
 - relation to party scene
 - relation to American values - misogyny?
 - feminism and defensive reactions to feminism
 - slut shaming
 - why are excuses used for rape

TOPIC TWO: Bullying (Chiara, Taylor, Annie)

- *When is healthy competition unhealthy?*

Tensions within the community. Tensions between MA and other schools, especially as related to sport (is that bullying?!).

- cyber bullying, liking pictures etc.
- Mean girls- passivity, subtlety--not so blatant
- rise in teen suicide?
- are people comfortable talking with others about it?
- it doesn't affect the whole school
- people who are affected by maybe don't think its important enough to talk to others about it
- People to Talk To:
- Sanjai, Charis
- Lynne
- Identity/Equity Group Leaders (for national perspective): Callan/Sophie (GSA), etc. (also for effect on minority groups)
- Matt Waxman (beyond differences)
- Students from different social groups, grades and genders
- Send out an email asking for interviews
- student poll: 1.) have you ever been bullied in any way, 2.) have you witnessed bullying, 3.) have you ever bullied someone, 4.) breakdown: online, over txt/phone, physical, verbally (in person), other
- Key topics for questions: existence of bullying at MA? what kind of bullying have you witnessed? What kind of bullying do you see at MA most? What do you consider bullying? Teen suicides in the Bay Area? do some people deserve to be bullied? Where is the line between bullying and actively disliking someone? What actions are being taken here at MA?
- Graphics: photography/infographic based -- looks classier
- piktochart for polls
- Graphics ideas:
- dark grey ominous figures (by taylor)
- anonymous face thing w/ mean chat bubbles all around it (by taylor)
- Computer messages/texts with mean stuff
- iphone with mean messages on the screen (by taylor)
- sticks and stones
- school bus with dark ominous figures sitting in seats and one kid walking down the aisle w/ no friends

TOPIC THREE: Perfectionism (Maya, Kai, Dylan, Lena)

- **What** does *perfectionism* mean at MA? (maybe an audio piece)
Perfect versus perfectionism? What is the real definition?
- Time management
- How to stand **out**?
- Quality and quantity of things students do - all the different ways

- people become the “perfect” college applicant
- People keep setting the bar higher for their peers - level of competitiveness between peers to be the “most perfect”
- At MA, physical perfection is less of a big deal than academic/extracurricular perfection
- Pressure to be perfect comes from the community - being surrounded by so many intelligent people makes it hard to stand out
- Formula for success: do well in high school, get into a good college, get a good job, live a happy life - pressure all starts in high school
- Perfectionism makes people a lot more stressed - people lose enjoyment because they’re doing so many things
- People start doing stuff not because they enjoy it, but because it’ll look good on applications
- Academic perfectionism = equal between guys and girls, physical perfectionism = mostly talked about in regards to girls
- Difference between wanting to do your best and being a perfectionist (wanting to do more than your best)
- What about kids who don’t care at all about perfection? There’s no one who doesn’t care at all... Just on a gradient scale of who cares more or less about grades, college, etc.
- Connected to depression, insecurity
- Article idea: in addition to a longer feature article, put in an audio possibly - ask a bunch of students what their idea of perfection vs. perfectionism is
- Differs for individuals - how students use perfection as a driving force
- Where does perfection come from? Ourselves, our peers, our teachers, our parents, our culture?

Tuesday 4/30 Brainstorm:

Components of Article:

- Audio
- Feature article

Question for audio: What is perfection? What is perfectionism? → See which has better answers and then ask more people the favored question

Guiding question for article: How do perfection and perfectionism affect students at MA?

Must interviews: Joani Lacey, Sanjai or Charis, one of the Jennifers about pressures of college, as many students as possible (every single grade - boys and

girls)

Maya: Freshmen

Kai: Juniors

Dylan: Sophomores

Lena: Seniors

Maya and Kai: Sanjai or Charis

- How do you see perfection affecting students at MA?
 - * Does it change students once they enter high school?
- What are some external factors that put pressure on students to be perfect?
- What's the difference between perfection and perfectionism?
- Do you think this is an issue at MA for students? Why at MA?

Dylan and Lena: Joani

- Do you see perfection and perfectionism being issues for students at MA? What about MA makes this so?
- What's the difference between perfection and perfectionism?
- How are students affected psychologically by the pressure to be perfect?
- Do you think students are feeling the pressure to be perfect more internally or externally?

Questions for students:

- How has perfectionism affected you?
- Is being perfect a pressure at MA? Why?
- Where does the pressure to be perfect come from?
- How does this pressure manifest itself?

Graphics ideas:

- Drawing of the "perfect" student: getting straight A's, playing 5 different sports, doing art, etc.
- Perfection/perfectionism in a venn diagram

TOPIC FOUR: Technology's influence on social dynamic (Jesse, Dorothy Morgan)

Scenario questions -- how would you communicate? Information expressed in chart. What does your form of communication relay about your relationship? Why do you use this form of communication?

----> joani lacey, brad lakritz,

- social contact/manners leads to awkwardness

- hanging out without actually hanging out (friends bored with each other and just go on phones)
- staying in the know
- compulsive phone checking
- procrastination / filling empty space with tech/ apps
- keeping up with the latest technology
- being constantly plugged in - headphones
- constant stream of advertising online
- when is it enough? (challenges of staying 'unplugged' when tech is everywhere)
- 'Friends' vs friends. how you can act like really good friends on facebook, but you don't acknowledge each other
- alternative storytelling: step by step process on how to stay unplugged in a tech filled community
- comparison of two people who are at opposite ends of the technology scale.
- facebook wars - escalating conversations due to lack of understanding that comes with physical contact
- dealing with your problems on technology vs facing the person/passive aggressive behavior online
- dealing with uncomfortable situations through texts/emails vs in person
- knowing your friends a little too well (the unimportant stuff like what they ate for dinner) but not enough (who they really are)