

Influencing adolescents: 3 Common Myths

- > Who influenced you most positively during your adolescent years, and how did they influence you? How can you be that person to the adolescents you serve?
 - > Main Point: PEOPLE CHANGE PEOPLE. Curricula and programs are tools.
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Myth #1: Good information will positively change adolescent behavior

Adolescents make decisions subconsciously and less-than-rationally.

The adolescent brain is under construction and is unable to effectively process information.

CONNECTION, not information, is critical for influencing adolescent behavior.

Myth #2: Good teaching will influence adolescent behavior

Good teachers, more than good teaching, will influence behavior.

Good teaching is an extension of who we are.

The teacher is the single most important factor for influencing adolescents.

Myth #3: Good answers are central to good education

We should be far more concerned with teaching students to ask good questions.

Most educational climates discourage adolescents from asking questions.

We need to create environments where adolescents are taught to ask questions and are free to ask questions.

The Goal:

- > Adolescents need you. They don't need your programs.
- > Minimize mediation between you and the adolescents you serve.
- > Programs and curricula are merely tools. They should enhance your work, not insulate you from it.