



Connect with Kids

On the Rocks

Discussion Questions

Open

1. Why do experts say alcohol is the worst drug of all?
2. Why do some parents feel it is okay for their kids to drink as long as they are supervised while others feel it is never okay? Are these the only choices?

Part I

1. Have you ever attended a party similar to the party described in the documentary? Describe what happened.
2. Are these parties common? Explain your answer.
3. How did the Brakes and Brooks escape real trouble?
4. Should they have been arrested? Why or why not?
5. Explain the statement made by Jim Mosher, J.D, of the Pacific Institute for Research and Evaluation: "Teen drinking and teen safety cannot coexist."
6. Joilyn Lewis, Psy.D, LMFT, Drug Treatment Counselor, compares parental permission to drink to getting a flat tire: "Well, my car is eventually going to get a flat anyway, so I'm just going to get a knife and I'm just going to go ahead and puncture out the tire now." Do you think this is a fair comparison? Why or why not?

Part II

1. Is providing teenagers with evidence of alcohol-caused brain damage a good deterrent for them? Why or why not?
2. Describe where brain damage occurs in heavy drinkers.
3. What are the specific, potential risks for the brains of heavy drinkers? What are some of the necessary compensatory methods?
4. If the dangers are so obvious, why do kids drink?

Part III

1. What are the statistics quoted in this section regarding emergency room treatment, drunk driving deaths, suicide and date rape where alcohol is involved? What do these statistics mean for teenagers?
2. Why do teenagers binge drink more than adults?
3. Why is under-age drinking compared to opening Pandora's box?
4. Describe the importance of the pre-frontal cortex and how it can both influence whether or not a young person drinks and how drinking will impair its functions.

Close

1. What do you think about the statement that parents are the reason kids drink?
2. Is it realistic to think parents will keep liquor out of the house, lock it up, abstain from drinking in front of their children, and make sure parties stay alcohol free? Why or why not?
3. Do you agree with the experts that kids will listen when parents talk about the dangers of drinking? Explain your answer.