

Connect with Kids Television Special: *Affluenza*

Affluenza is a relatively new term describing the concern that we are raising a generation of kids who are spoiled and feel a sense of entitlement. These kids define themselves in terms of material possessions – especially brand names. “Symptoms” of *Affluenza* include low self-esteem, a need for instant gratification, unrealistic expectations and kids who are often in debt by the time they finish college. Who is responsible? What can we do about *Affluenza*?

Instructions: Use the following videos and discussion questions for extended lessons after students have watched *Affluenza* on television. Check your local station’s website for broadcast dates or go to connectwithkids.com and click “On TV.”

Character Education and Life Skills Series -- Correlated to *Affluenza*

Curriculum Guide	Correlated Character Trait/ Description	Discussion Questions
Elementary Unit 2 Segment 1	Helpfulness: Krystal Williams models helpfulness for her campers on a daily basis	Why does Krystal so often think of the well-being of others? Do you ever think of helping others versus helping yourself? How do you show this? How might helping others make you a better person?
Elementary Unit 7 Segment 2	Integrity: Samantha and Zach faked an illness to stay home from school, while Clinard acted with integrity when he saw friends take a lost wallet.	How was pretending to be sick a selfish thing to do? Why did the children pretend to be sick? When Clinard told someone about the wallet, how do you think he felt? Why? Have you ever done something that was difficult, but you felt good about doing the right thing? Explain.
Elementary Unit 4 Segment 3	Togetherness: For Allison Major, Lane Siedor, Irene Butler, and Catherine Cheetam there is no “I” in team.	Some children act in a selfish way. Why is being selfish not good for a team? Being part of a team means you may have to wait for others. Do you think it is hard to wait? What are some ways in which you show that you can wait rather than you need to have something “right away”?

Television Special: “*Affluenza*” (Title to be determined)

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Middle & High Perseverance Tape Segment 1	Perseverance: Krystal Williams’s perseverance has helped her overcome adversities, such as homelessness, a drug-addicted father and domestic abuse.	Krystal did not grow up with a lot of material possessions. How did that affect her? Why do many kids worry having the right clothes and designer labels? What can we learn from Krystal about what is important in life? What does it mean when someone needs <i>instant gratification</i> ?
Middle & High Diligence Tape Segment 2	Diligence: Even though years of diligence contributed to Jeannie Placek’s success in gymnastics, once her performance faltered, she realized that being diligent means looking adversity in the eye and triumphing over it.	Jeannie learned that success doesn’t come overnight. What did she have to do to be a successful gymnast? Why do some kids give up when a task is difficult? Have you ever worked hard to achieve a goal that took some time? How did it make you feel? What did you learn from the experience?
Middle & High Caring/Compassion Tape Segment 2	Caring: Brandi and Markus Bratton act with compassion when they give up their time, space and privacy for the comfort of their live-in grandparents. Their caring nature has enabled them to love more, instead of always wanting to receive.	What did Brandi and Markus learn about the importance of thinking of others before thinking of themselves? Have you ever sacrificed for someone else? How did it make you feel?