

First Person Exposé

By Deb Mann

“He started going after her, so I jumped up in between them. I was always the one in our family that tried to keep the peace; I’d try to diffuse a situation, hoping to just get everyone to be quiet and forget about it. I didn’t want him to make a scene in the crowded theme park surrounded by other normal happy families. I don’t remember the details of what happened next – it happened so fast – but I do remember that it all ended when my father pulled his arm back and punched me below my right eye. No one even stopped to see if I was all right or to ask if I needed help.”

The “first person expose” is a staple of the teen magazine. In it, an actual teen recounts something that they’ve experienced, positive or (more commonly) negative, in the first person. It represents an opportunity to integrate serious, issue-driven content into each issue, and opens up dialogue on things like violence, racism, pregnancy, and eating disorders. The first person expose is frequently accompanied with contact information for organizations equipped to deal with the problem discussed in the article. For example, a first person expose on bullying might include the Kids’ Help Line number, while one on teen pregnancy might refer readers to Planned Parenthood. Keep this in mind when you receive your monthly batch of teen magazines, and consider maintaining a corresponding list of local contacts at the reference desk. Sometimes magazines will run first person exposes to correspond with larger national initiatives like Black History Month or anniversaries of significant events like the Columbine shootings. These could come in handy if you are planning programming or outreach related to such events.

Programming Ideas

by Robin Illsley

Spring break provides a great opportunity for the library to market itself to students. Here are some ideas on programming for teen girls. The descriptions are general so that you can add your own flavor to each program.



Lip stick Guessing Game

Girls apply either lip stick or tinted lip gloss and make an impression of their lips on a small piece of paper. Try to provide a variety of colors, or get girls to use their own. The anonymous imprint is then tacked up on a bulletin board along with imprints from all the other participants. The identity of the imprint is on the back of each sheet. The girls then try to match up the imprints with the correct identity.

Display: Mystery books



How to Make Café Mocha

A local barista (or a staff member with similar knowledge) demonstrates how to concoct the perfect café mocha. It is a very interactive demonstration, with the barista and staff asking participants what sort of drinks they like and talking about their favorite hangouts. Each girl receives café mocha at the end of the session. Try to include snacks like cheese and crackers, fruit trays, and a dessert tray. An alternate beverage should be provided for those who do not like the café mocha.

Display: Non-alcoholic drinks books