

Alli Hall

Senior Seminar Skit – “It’s Drug Abuse!”

Narrator: This is a three-scene skit entitled “It’s Drug Abuse!” representing three different ways prescription drugs are and can be abused by teenagers. It also represents the transition from high school to college and the temptations teens may encounter along the way with prescription medications.

Scene 1: Students in High School... “Pharming to Get High”

Narrator: It is the first day of winter break and Dave and Beth are so excited to be out of school for two weeks. Today at school they heard about a party one of their friends, Eric, is having tonight. It’s a new kind of party that they have never been to, called a “pharming party.” They were told to bring any kind of prescription drugs they could find in their houses. At the party they are to mix all of the different drugs together and take a few at a time to see what happens. Dave and Beth are talking after school.

Dave: Oh my gosh Beth, it is finally winter break, and I am so excited to relax and have no school work for two weeks!

Beth: Yes!! I know I am ecstatic! So what do you want to do tonight for our first night of freedom?

Dave: Well, I heard about this party that Eric is having tonight called a “pharming party.” Do you want to go to that with me?

Beth: Oh that sounds fun! But what exactly is a pharming party?

Dave: Well, I have never actually been to one, but Eric was telling me that a bunch of our friends are going, and everyone brings any type of prescription drugs they can find at home. Then we all mix them together and take a few at a time to see what happens.

Beth: Oh my! That sounds really dangerous. We are just supposed to take a bunch of random pills that we don’t know where they came from or what they are?

Dave: Yea, what's the big deal Beth? I mean it's not like we are taking street drugs. These drugs are prescribed by a doctor, so obviously they can't be that bad for you!

Beth: I guess you make a good point, so what time is this party?

****Interjection of fact:**

Many people assume that because a doctor prescribes prescription drugs they are much safer than street drugs. However, the truth is they can be equally as harmful. And did you know that prescription pain medications, like OxyContin and Vicodin are in the same family of drugs, called opioids, as morphine and heroin?

Dave: It's at 8 tonight, so we can just go to my house right now and get some of my parent's prescription medications before they come home from work, and then we can just chill for a while until the party.

Beth: Okay that sounds like a perfect plan to me!

****Interjection of fact:**

Approximately 70% of students who abuse prescription drugs get them from family and friends. Students need to know that there are personal and legal liabilities when we give prescription drugs to others. People who turn to the Internet to get medications without a real prescription add the risk of taking counterfeit drugs to the many hazards of abusing medications.

Narrator: Dave and Beth have gone to Dave's house. When they get there they head upstairs to search through his parent's medications. They end up finding a few that they have no idea what they are or what they are used for, and decide to take these to the party tonight. Later on that night, Dave and Beth arrive at Eric's pharming party, prescription drugs in hand.

Eric: Hey guys, come on in, the party has just begun! What kind of drugs did you bring?

Dave: Oh just some random drugs that my parents had at the house. I think we brought some OxyContin, but that's the only one I have actually heard of.

Eric: Sounds great to me! You can get a really strong high off of OxyContin, which is what this party is all about!!

****Interjection of fact:**

Most teens who abuse prescription drugs know that drugs like OxyContin can give them a very strong high, but they do not realize how great the danger is in using them without medical supervision. For example, did you know that there were 590,000 visits to emergency departments in 2005 resulting from the nonmedical use of prescription or non-prescription medications or dietary supplements?

Scene 2: Summer before college... "But it's for my pain"

Narrator: Cassie just graduated from high school, but during the past basketball season she tore her meniscus and had to get surgery at the end of the winter. After surgery she was put on Vicodin to help with the pain through her healing process. Within a

couple months, Cassie was completely healed and was able to start playing basketball again. However, every time she got even the smallest injury, she thought it was completely necessary to take Vicodin to “help with the pain.” It seemed like she wanted to be hurt so she could take Vicodin, and it became apparent she was slowly becoming addicted to this painkiller. Cassie and her sister Jessica, who is also on the summer league basketball team, just finished their first summer team practice and are now hanging out at their house.

Jessica: Cassie, I know I’m going to be sore tomorrow, considering I haven’t conditioned since basketball season in the winter!

Cassie: Yea! Tell me about it, I haven’t either! When we wake up in the morning we are barely going to be able to move our muscles will ache so badly!

Jessica: Hahaha, I know, no doubt! But it definitely felt good to practice and get back into the swing of things today.

Cassie: Yea I mean I guess it was all right, but I think I might have twisted my ankle a little bit. It's really hurting me right now.

Jessica: Aww well that's too bad, maybe you should take some Tylenol or something so you will be able to workout tomorrow.

Cassie: Oh, actually now that you mention it, I think I still have some Vicodin left over from my surgery. I will just take one of those to help with the pain, and then I will for sure be feeling better tomorrow.

Jessica: Are you sure you should be taking that Cassie? I mean that was prescribed to you for when you had major surgery, not a minor twisted ankle.

Cassie: Exactly my point Jessica! I was prescribed for ME, so I should be able to take it. Plus it really works wonders with pain.

Jessica: Whatever you say Cassie.

Narrator: The next day Cassie practiced fine on her supposedly “twisted ankle” and she didn’t complain about it once. However, as soon as they got home from practice her ankle started to hurt again, and she felt the need to take another Vicodin. This suddenly became a ritual for Cassie to take one of her left over Vicodin each day after practice. She even contacted a doctor to try to get another prescription for the drug. Jessica began to become concerned that Cassie could be becoming addicted to these painkillers, so she decided to confront her one day after practice when Cassie was taking her daily Vicodin.

Jessica: Hey Cassie, I understand that your ankle hurts, but are you sure you should be taking these prescription drugs from your surgery?

Cassie: My Gosh Jessica! What are you, my mother? Yes, I am sure I can take my own prescription medications for pain, when I am in pain. You need to get off my case.

Jessica: I'm sorry, it just seems like it is becoming a daily habit for you to take Vicodin and I am somewhat concerned you might be slowly becoming addicted. It is a drug you know!

Cassie: Yes, I know it is a drug, but there is no way I can become addicted to something a doctor gave me. You're seriously acting like I am using heroin or something!

****Interjection of fact:**

Many people believe that street drugs, such as heroin, are much more addictive than prescription drugs, but in reality, prescription drugs can be just as addictive. In fact, did you know that between 1995 and 2005 admissions to drug treatment centers for the abuse of prescription pain killers increased by 300%?

Jessica: Cassie, I realize you are not using heroin, I am just saying that if you are really in this much pain, then maybe you should go see a doctor and make sure you are doing the right thing for it.

Cassie: Yea right Jess! Like I am going to do that when the Vicodin is working perfectly.

**Scene 3: Students in College... “Don’t you want me to do well on my
finals?”**

Narrator: Courtney has been diagnosed with ADHD, so a doctor prescribed Ritalin to help her focus on her schoolwork. It is finals week at Ohio State, and some people are pressuring Courtney to give them some of her Ritalin to help them study. She is very worried about this, and does not want to give up any of her pills to others. Courtney is studying in her room, and Josh and John are talking in the dorms’ common area.

Josh: Man, I hate finals week, I am always so stressed out and hardly ever have enough time to study.

John: Are you sure you have no time to study? I mean it just seems like you are lazy and spend all of your time playing World of Warcraft.

Josh: I do love that game, but no, I am not lazy. I just can never study for more than thirty minutes at a time, so I just take a lot of breaks to play and get my mind off of schoolwork.

John: Yea, I understand the break thing, but really, every thirty minutes?

Josh: Yes! I can never focus. I think I might have ADHD. Do you know anyone who has medicine for ADHD that might let me borrow some for exam week?

John: Well I know Courtney takes Ritalin for her ADHD, but I highly doubt she is going to share any with you.

Josh: Well I am going to ask her just this once....

(Goes to Courtney's room.)

Hey Courtney! So I hear you have Ritalin to help you focus on your schoolwork?

Courtney: Yea I do. Why do you care?

Josh: Well I think I have ADHD too, but I don't have any medicine for it yet. Do you think I could use some of yours just to get me through finals?

Courtney: Well if you think you have it then why don't you go to the doctor, and if you do then you can get your own Ritalin.

Josh: Well yea I could do that, but I have a final tomorrow so the doctor can't help me out with that one. It's too soon, so do you think I can just have one to help me focus tonight?

Courtney: Fine, just one! Don't ask me again!

Josh: Okay, I won't I promise! Thank you so much Courtney, you're a real life, and grade, saver!

Narrator: Josh starts to use Ritalin more and more often. He usually gets it from other students, sometimes paying for it. He has really started to rely on Ritalin to become smart and studious on demand... A few weeks later, Josh is in his dorm studying with the help of Ritalin, when his dorm floor director comes around to check on everyone. When she gets to Josh's room, she asks if they can talk. It seems that many students have been confronting her about what Josh has been doing with Ritalin.

Floor Director: Josh, we need to talk...

****Interjection of fact:**

There could be many negative consequences for students who use prescription drugs like Ritalin without medical supervision. These could include health or legal issues. For example, did you know that it is a 5th degree felony in Ohio to possess a prescription drug like Ritalin that is not prescribed for you? And college is a time to establish personal and professional habits that will carry into a career. You've got to ask yourself—is the use of drugs like Ritalin a habit that is likely to lead to personal and professional success?

Narrator: Remember, prescription medications can be very helpful if used appropriately under medical supervision. But any drug can be harmful as well. When you use prescription drugs without medical supervision...

Narrator along with entire cast:

“It’s Drug Abuse!”