

Addicted to War Curriculum

War, poverty and racism continue, and our taxes are squandered on massive weapons programs rather than books for students and whiteboards for our classrooms. How can educators teach the realities of urban existence and militarism in the early 21st century while keeping busy pacing plans and assessments in pace? The crucial issues of the thoughtless use of war and imperialism need to be taught to underserved students in LAUSD, particularly Latino/a's who are experiencing heavy-handed techniques and deceptions from military recruiters...but how?

A wonderful resource is now available to educators interested in transmitting this essential information to youth. *Addicted To War* by Joel Andreas is a non-fiction graphic work that can be used with middle school and high school students. I am currently teaching the book in my Eighth grade Language Arts classes as part of the Persuasion Component (4) of Eighth grade English. Comparing and contrasting the book with pro-war literature from the Pentagon's own recruitment pamphlets allows students to weigh the logic, coherence, and consistency of the two arguments. Various propositions, both explicit and implicit, can be analyzed and judged for accuracy.

Addicted To War has been approved for use as an Alternative Text by LAUSD. A limited number of class sets of books are available free to LAUSD teachers through the Coalition Against Militarism In Our Schools (CAMS). Vocabulary sheets and Lesson Plans are available in PDF format at www.militaryfreeschools.org

Please join with hundreds of educators nationwide who empower youth with a vision for a more socially just and peaceful future. It's time to take the curriculum back from the politicians and their corporate owners. It's time to reinvigorate American public education with the truth and share our common sense intelligence about the repercussions of an out-of-control military alienating and destroying the global community.

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