



# Tips for Teachers

A Guide for Using *New Youth Connections* in the Classroom

May/June 2003

The year is winding down and you may have some spare moments in your classroom. Here are a few things you can do to fill the time with this month's *New Youth Connections*.

## 1. Write a Letter to the Editor

Have students pick a story to read and respond to with a brief letter. The form is very basic: The writer should mention the name of the story and the author in the first sentence, and give an opinion. ("I really disliked such and such a story by so and so.") The next few sentences should support the opinion with examples from the story and/or the writer's own experience.

## 2. Enter the Writing Contest

This month's writing contest is "What's your most memorable summer experience?" The winner gets \$100 and the essay will be printed in the September issue of *NYC*. Tell your students that we get relatively few entries to the June contest, so their

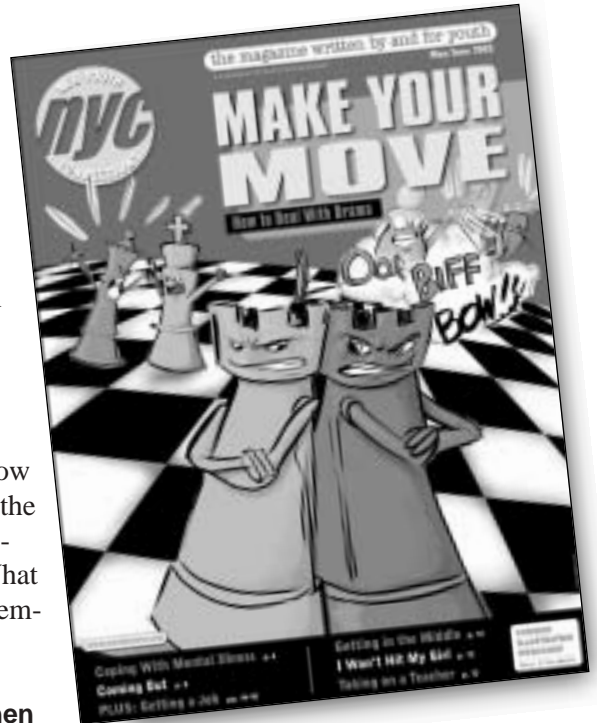
chances of winning are much higher than usual.

In addition, this is an easy topic. Everyone has had a memorable summer experience. They've had their first kiss (or more). They've gone to camp, been sent to live with relatives in another city or country, done something they loved, or something they regretted.

Remind students that this is a descriptive essay. We want to know the sights, sounds, and smells of the experience. Where did the experience happen? Who was there? What were they saying? Why was it memorable?

## 3. Learn About Your Rights When Visiting a Health Clinic

Teens are often confused about their right to privacy regarding health care. They may avoid seeking care if they feel that their visit won't be kept confidential. Marianna Hernandez explains when teens do and don't have a right to privacy when visiting a health clinic (*Keeping It Private*, p. 10-11).



## 4. Jump Into the Mosh Pit

Too shy to go moshing yourself? Let Sari Combier-Kapel be your guide (and let her suffer the cuts, bruises and damaged hearing).

After you read this, ask your students if it made them more or less interested in moshing. What concert experiences have they had? What do they hope will happen when they go to a club?

**Tips for Teachers** is written for the bulk subscribers to *New Youth Connections* to help them use the magazine more effectively with teens in their classes and programs.

For more information, contact:  
**Youth Communication**  
224 W. 29<sup>th</sup> St., 2<sup>nd</sup> fl.,  
New York, NY 10001  
212-279-0708 ext.100

[www.youthcomm.org](http://www.youthcomm.org)

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