

GUIDELINES FOR NON-A.A. TALKS

The purpose of the pamphlet is to establish guidelines for talking in places such as DUI Schools. It is only meant to be a suggestion and you can, of course, use whatever format you prefer.

1. Identify your self as an alcoholic (first name only, usually).

2. State clearly the purpose for you visit.

Indicate that you were invited here and that you are not being paid to do this. You are not a professional, but you have experience as an alcoholic.

Indicate that you do not speak for the entire fellowship of Alcoholics Anonymous, any opinions expressed are based on your own individual experience as a recovering alcoholic

3. History of AA?

AA was started in 1935 by a New York stockbroker, Bill Wilson, and an Ohio surgeon, Bob Smith, (both now deceased) who had been hopeless drunks./ They founded AA in an effort to help others who suffered from the disease of alcoholism and to stay sober themselves.

4. What is AA? Go over the Preamble, Sentence by sentence.

Alcoholics Anonymous is a fellowship of men and women who share their experience, strength and hope with each other that they may solve their common problem and help others to recover from alcoholism.

(Traditions 1 & 5)

The only requirement for membership is a desire to stop drinking.

(Tradition 3)

Explain singleness of purpose. We deal only with alcoholism and there are other Fellowships available such as OA, NA and CA.

There are no dues or fees for AA membership; we are self- supporting through our own contributions.

(Tradition 7) Explain how we don't solicit contributions from the government or from other companies. If we did, we would lose our identity. That there are no membership cards to fill out. You are a member if you say you are.

AA is not allied with any sect, denomination, politics, organization or institution; does not wish to engage in any controversy, neither endorses nor opposes any causes.

(Traditions 6 & 10)

Our primary purpose is to stay sober and help other alcoholics to achieve sobriety.

(Tradition 5)

5. Touch on anonymity. How it affects you personally.

When you go to meetings, you don't have to worry about your boss knowing, or your neighbors. That what is said in AA meetings stays in AA meetings. Explain how if the media knew a famous football player was in AA and he relapsed that everyone would think it was because of AA. We are a fellowship of peers with no one spokesperson of AA. We learn to do things without expecting credit or recognition. Our message is a program of recovery, not the people in the program.

6. Explain the 12 Steps.

Experience has shown that it is best to say little about the steps. Touch lightly on the God/Spirituality aspect of the program. Share only steps 1 and 12.

7. Explain about different types of meetings.

Closed meetings

Open speaker meetings - strongly suggest that they go to these at first.

Explain how if you have to get a court or treatment card/sheet signed that the group has the right not to sign it. If that happens, then go to another meeting.

8. Share your personal story with them and how you found AA.

This should only be 10 to 15 minutes. Try to reference your talk to the group you're talking to.

9. Leave plenty of time for questions. Usually 20 minutes.

If you don't know the answer, then don't make one up. Tell them you don't know. Get their name and phone number and find the answer and let them know.

10. Tell them how to find AA.

Phone book. Meeting schedules if you have them. (preferably schedules that include open meetings)

INTRODUCTION TO ALCOHOLICS ANONYMOUS

Introduce yourself:

Purpose: here to give a short introduction to Alcoholics Anonymous, what AA does do and what AA DOES NOT do

Preamble: (read from from of a Grapevine)

"Is AA for You?" - hand out pamphlet, these are questions each of you can think about, only the individual can decide if he/she has a problem with drinking

Try to go with an open mind to AA meetings, listen to AA members sharing to see if you can identify with anything they say, not compare

"AA At a Glance" - hand out and go over briefly, stressing what AA DOES and DOES NOT do

District meeting lists - hand out, suggest they get phone numbers of AA members, who they can call for help or get questions answered Encourage them to go early and stay after AA meetings, to find out more about AA

Describe open/ closed meetings; Step, Big Book, Speaker, Discussion meetings - and what happens at the meetings (don't even have to say you're an alcoholic, just introduce yourself by your first name)

Tradition 3, many have other problems, but if alcohol is a problem, then they can be members of AA Other 12 Step groups for other problems, such as NA, Al-Anon, for family and friends of alcoholics- they use a 12 Step program of recovery also.

Sharing time: 2 AA members sharing briefly (about 5 minutes each) part of their stories (Stress how you got in trouble, legal, domestic, medical problems, while drinking and how it's a relief not to be getting into trouble while sober Why you want to stay sober now and what you do to stay sober, meetings, sponsor, reading AA literature, phone calls, service)

QUESTION AND ANSWER TIME: (Stress that AA is not something to dread and fear, it does help us - one alcoholic helping another)

THANK YOU for letting let share information about Alcoholics Anonymous with you. This is how we stay sober, by passing along our message of recovery in hope that it will help someone else.

(Materials to have for each presentation: Big Book, 12 & 12, copy of the Grapevine, enough District meeting lists, "AA at a Glance," "Is AA for You?")

Suggestions for Working with Your Local Radio and Television Stations
to Help Carry the Message

Traditionally, local radio and television Stations have offered time for Public Service Announcements to non-profit organizations. While laws mandating these no-charge announcements have been modified, local broadcasters are still quite willing to accommodate recognized not-for-profit organizations such as Alcoholics Anonymous.

Approaching your local Radio Broadcaster

In large cities, radio stations may have a Public Service Director who handles P.S.A.s While stations typically request typed and timed Public Service Announcements, you increase your chances of "getting on the air" when you provide a P.S.A. on a convenient cassette. Your General Service Office in New York sells Public Service Announcements on inexpensive cassettes, or your Area/District or Intergroup/Central Office may have produced local versions. You may wish to ask that a local Intergroup telephone number be added as a tag at the end of the message. This is often easy for the station to accomplish since your cassette will doubtless be dubbed or transferred to a computerized playback system.

Approaching your local Television Station

As with radio, staff size and responsibilities at your local television station will vary from station to station and size of the city. In large cities, P.S.A.s are often handled by a Community Relations or Public Service Director. In smaller towns the chore of accepting P.S.A.s is often handled by the Traffic Manager who actually schedules all commercial and non-commercial announcements. A phone call to a civic-minded General Manager may well ensure that our A.A. message gets on the air.

Just like us, the television station will take the easier softer way to fulfill its Public Service commitments. If you walk in with a ready-to-play tape, you increase the odds of getting on the air. Your General Service Office in New York sells ready-to-play video tapes in formats commonly used by commercial television stations. While there are a variety of tape formats, most stations can accommodate the Beta format. To keep costs down, you can take your original copy from station to station and ask them to dub off a copy. Others can accept 3/4 inch or one-inch size. The General Service Office will work to assist you in choosing the tape-format most commonly used by television stations in your community. Incidentally, with a little friendly persuasion, the first television station that you visit may be willing to superimpose the telephone number of your

Intergroup, Central Office or A.A. Answering Service on your original copy of the Public Service Announcement. You can then take this original from station to station and keep your costs down.

Some Radio and Television Stations may ask for an actual typed script, even though you are providing a pre-recorded audio or video-tape. The General Service Office can furnish these scripts upon request. Like most challenges in A.A., working with Broadcasters may seem difficult and confusing at first. If your committee decides to reach out to these media professionals, you may be pleasantly surprised at their response. By going through this process one step at a time, you will gather valuable P.I. Twelfth Step experience and demonstrate A.A.'s continuing commitment to reach out to the still suffering alcoholic.

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Northern Illinois Area 20, Ltd.

Public Information

Materials List

TITLE	CAT #	DESCRIPTION	#	LENGTH
Twelve Steps & Twelve Traditions		Audio Tape Set	1	
AA Comes of Age		Audio Tape Set	1	
Alcoholis Anonymous "Young People"	R-2	:60 Radio PSA's	3	60 min.
Public Service Announcements	R-05	Multi Lingual Radio PSA's	1	30 second spots
AA In Prison - Inmate To Inmate	M-55	1 Hour Cassette Tape	1	1 hr.
A Brief Guide to AA	M-60	1 Hour Cassette Tape	1	1 hr.
AA Public Service Announcements	R-09	Radio PSA's	4	30 & 60 second spots
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-25	PSA's (VHS)	1	
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-25	PSA's (3/4")	2	
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-26	PSA's (3/4")	2	
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-14	PSA's (3/4")	1	20 & 30 seconds spots
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-17	PSA's (3/4")	1	20 & 30 seconds spots
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-20	PSA's (3/4")	1	20 & 30 seconds spots
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-28	PSA's (3/4")	1	30 seconds spots
AA Public Service Announcements	TV-37	PSA's (3/4")	1	10 & 30 seconds spots
Alcoholics Anonymous American Sign Language		5 VHS Tape Set	1	9 hrs. 55 min.
Twelve Steps and Twelve Traditions American Sign Language		5 VHS Tape Set	1	5 hrs. 54 min.

AA - An Inside View	VS-4	VHS Tape	2 28 min.
Your General Service Office, The Grapevine, and the General Service Structure	VS-24	VHS Tape	1 22 min.
Young People and AA	VS-8	VHS Tape	2 28 min.
Carrying the Message Behind These Walls	VS-25	VHS Tape	1 15 min.
Your GSO Today Circles of Love	M-48	VHS Tape	2 0:13:33/0:16:04
Bill Dicusses the 12 Traditions	UL-08	VHS Tape	1 1 hour
Bill Dicusses the 12 Traditions - Spanish	VS-22	VHS Tape	1 1 hour
Bill's Own Story	UL-09	VHS Tape	1 1 hour
It sure Beats Sitting in a Cell	VS-11	VHS Tape	1 16 min.
AA - Rap With Us	VS-13	VHS Tape	2 17 min.
Hope	VS-16	VHS Tape	2 .15 min.
Markings On a Journey	M-57	VHS Tape	1 37 min.
How It Works - American Sign Language	6867	VHS Tape Set	1 48 min.
It Sure Beats Sitting in a Cell	RS-12	3/4" Video	3 17 min.
Young People and AA	RS-09	3/4" Video	2 28 min.
Alcoholism It Doesn't Care What Age You Are	TV-37	PSA's (3/4")	1 10 & 30 second spots
No Title	TV-33	TV PSA's	1 6/:30
No Title	TV-34	TV PSA's	1 6/:30
Picking Up the Phone	TV-9	1" TV PSA	2 :30
Alcoholism It Doesn't Care What Age You Are	TV-38	1" TV PSA's	1 3/:30 3/:10
Preamble	TV-12	1" TV PSA	1 :60
Circle Of Love		Slide Version	1
Your GSO Today		Slide Version	1
AA An Inside View		16mm Film	1
		VHS Mailing Packages	

PUBLIC INFORMATION PRESENTATION FOR SCHOOLS

(introduction) Hi, I'm , a member of Alcoholics Anonymous, also known as A.A. I do not speak for all of AA - no one person does We are here today to tell you about AA, what AA does and does not do, and how the AA recovery program works You may or may not be able to use some of this information now, but later in life you might find it helpful

(personal story -briefly) when you started drinking, what reasons, why you liked it, some results of drinking, how it progressed, what brought you to AA, how you use the AA program of recovery and what life is like today

In AA I learned that: alcoholism is a disease, I have an allergy to alcohol which affects me physically, mentally, spiritually I found out that alcoholism is a progressive disease, only gets worse, never better- alcoholics get a daily reprieve by staying sober one day at a time Some people remain social drinkers all their life, they can take it or leave it and they certainly don't keep drinking when they feel nauseous or get in trouble with the law or personal relationships, I cannot, if take one drink my body tells me it needs more I learned that I needed to swallow my pride and admit I needed help and get a sponsor, someone who had been sober awhile and could help me in AA's program of recovery

We use the 12 Steps as a program of recovery - these are suggestions of how an alcoholic can live a sober, happy and useful life The AA recovery program is described in the book, Alcoholics Anonymous, also known as the "Big Book"- it also has stories written by alcoholics about their recovery (we will be leaving a copy of the Big Book for your school library / or we have already put a copy in your library)

At some meetings tokens are given for the different lengths of sobriety a person has achieved, or a cake for a year anniversary. We do celebrate being sober, every day an alcoholic stays sober is quite an achievement, no matter how "bad" the day may have been, it's still better than when drinking My sponsor, who has been working on the Steps for many years, helps guide me and answers my questions

(history) AA started in 1935, when two men labeled as hopeless drunks met in Akron, Ohio. Both had been born in Vermont. Each had important information about alcoholism and when combined and discussed they came up with a program of recovery AA has grown to over 2 million members in over 145 countries in the beginning , most members were older males now the membership represents all walks of life: male/female, all different religions and occupations, all age levels (see survey on bulletin board) The recovery rate was higher in the early days of AA, most of the people who joined AA were hopeless drunks and desperate since nothing else had worked for them.

(video) We'll now show you the video, "Young People and AA", so you can get an idea why young people become members of AA. Some of the clothes, music, etc. are dated, but the message about alcoholism is the same; the video could be Romans dressed in togas and the message would still be the same, alcohol has caused the same problems all through history after the video we'll have a question and answer time (could hand out slips of paper for questions - so they remember the question and in case they're too embarrassed to ask aloud)

(total video time 27 1/2 minutes, just use about 15 minutes of the video, stop it where girl walks by in blue shorts and words "I found all these people in AA")

Question period -(watch time to leave about 5 minutes for closing) When questions lag, hand out pamphlet, "A Message to Teenagers" - these are questions that someone can ask himself or herself to see if there's a problem with alcohol (go through questions with group, but don't ask for answers publicly)

closing

How to contact AA locally - district and area meeting lists (show meeting list) telephone listing under AA and/or Alcoholics Anonymous In almost any phone book around country (and world) there will be an AA listing

At meetings members share their experience, strength and hope in order to help one another Some AA meetings are "open" for anyone to attend, people come to these open meetings especially if they're questioning their own drinking, since only the individual himself can decide whether he's an alcoholic "Closed" meetings are for those people who know they're alcoholics and there's more freedom in sharing at those meetings because everyone knows they're sharing in front of fellow alcoholics Young people are welcome - (tell about meetings available in area where presentation is being made from the meeting list)

Other fellowships for other problems, such as:

Al-Anon - for friends & family of alcoholics

Alateen, part of Al-Anon

NA, etc. - concentrate on other addictions, just as AA deals just with alcohol

Anonymity - protects the identity of newcomers, one of our important

Traditions - we make known our principles of recovery, not the people who are members of AA, there are no so-called "important" people in AA, we are all equal

What AA does not do ("AA At A Glance") - keep membership lists, follow or control its members, make medical diagnosis, offer food, jobs, money, etc., provide letters of reference to courts, employers, etc. More information can be found in this pamphlet, if you'd like a copy

Thank you for your attention!

Thanks to (the teacher's name) for giving us this opportunity to pass along information about Alcoholics Anonymous

(leave with teacher - Big Book if school doesn't have one yet, meeting list,survey, Grapevine subscription form, video if they want to finish it)

ORDER FORM

TELEVISION PUBLIC SERVICE ANNOUNCEMENTS

(All PSAs are closed captioned, unless otherwise noted, and are formatted for TV broadcasting.)

PRICE \$10.00 ea.

TITLE	QTY. ORDERED
Alcoholism—It Doesn't Care What Age You Are: 30 & 10 sec. Two directed to seniors, two directed to teens and two that address both groups	
TV-37 (3/4" U-Matic) ✓	TV-37 _____
TV-54 (Betacam SP)	TV-54 _____
TV-40 (3/4" U-Matic) - Spanish	TV-40 _____
BG's Advice: 30 sec., BG's Advice with subtitles (not closed captioned): 30 sec., High/Low Bottom: 20 & 10 sec.	
TV-28 (3/4" U-Matic) ✓	TV-28 _____
TV-53 (Betacam SP)	TV-53 _____

Newest PSAs

Male: 20 & 30 sec.
Information: 20 & 30 sec.

TV-14 (3/4" U-Matic)	TV-14 _____
TV-50 (Betacam SP)	TV-50 _____
TV-15 (3/4" U-Matic) Spanish	TV-15 _____

Female: 20 & 30 sec.
Information: 20 & 30 sec.

TV-17 (3/4" U-Matic)	TV-17 _____
TV-51 (Betacam SP)	TV-51 _____
TV-18 (3/4" U-Matic) Spanish	TV-18 _____

Young People: 20 & 30 sec.
Information: 20 & 30 sec.

TV-20 (3/4" U-Matic)	TV-20 _____
TV-52 (Betacam SP)	TV-52 _____
TV-21 (3/4" U-Matic) Spanish	TV-21 _____

Total PSAs _____

BILL TO: (No charge orders under \$25)

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State/Province _____ Zip/Postal Code _____

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Address _____

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20% DISCOUNT = (- _____)

SUBTOTAL = \$ _____

CHARGE ORDERS ADD 6% HANDLING = \$ _____

CANADIAN ORDERS ADD 7% GST = \$ _____

TOTAL AMOUNT (U.S. Dollars) = \$ _____

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