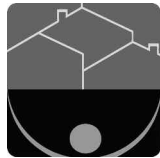


**PLAY
SAFE**

Let's Chat About HIV/AIDS

PLAY SAFE

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Black Community Developers, Inc.
Little Rock, Arkansas

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Youth Power!

Young people are creative beyond our expectations given the proper opportunity and encouragement. Having them engage in the writing process is often greeted with defiance and reluctance. However, once they are engaged they eventually find their voice and share perspectives we all can appreciate.

When these young people were asked to participate in a summer program to promote HIV/AIDS awareness through the arts and technology, there was both reluctance and curiosity. Reluctance because the topic of HIV/AIDS is taboo in minority communities around the country. The curiosity came from these young people being stimulated as they were given opportunities to share opinions and ideals through visual art, creative writing, computer training and videography. The recently opened Nia Career and Computer Training Center provided these youth with equipment and instructional support to take on the difficult challenge of creating an awareness campaign of utmost importance to their community and the world.

This chapbook of creative writings is the result of computer-based research, group discussions, reading and writing workshops, and of course, their creativity. For the past three summers Dr. Randall Horton has been asked to engage students in some form of creative writing.

The writings that appear in this chapbook come from the imagination of the students that participated in the program. The students were asked to write persona poems based on information they had been given through HIV/AIDS educational workshops. These writings are in no way shape or form a reflection of the author or anyone associated with them.

A big thank you to the students for taking the time to share their brilliance and caring hearts.

Patrick M. Oliver

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To : **Yogyrl@yahoo.com**

From : **EKutie**

Subject : **Today**

Hey Girl

Girl, i went to this class today. there was this man talking about how you can get (HIV) from birth. girl i was shocked to learn that 33 million people in the world got (HIV). Mostly black people. you can get it from blood, breast milk, and male and female organs. Girl i was so shocked because i thought you could get it from spit. LOL!! Girl i just wanted to let you know what i learned about (HIV).

Love Kutie

Written by Ebony McIntosh

To : **Playsafe@yahoo.com**
From : **Mup@yahoo.com**
Subject : **HIV**

You can infect someone with HIV if blood gets into someone who is not infected.

If somebody mother has AIDS, and they have a kid, then that kid can be born with HIV.

Howard Ryan

Written by Lamario Shavers

To: Freddiepal@yahoo.com
From: Playsafe@yahoo.com
Subject: What I got to tell you

Dear Pal,

I have something that I would like to tell you, but I don't want you to judge me. See, I was born with HIV but I am not sexually active. My mother contracted HIV from sharing needles with three different people (before my birth). I'm writing to let you know that HIV does not only come from sex, but it comes from blood to blood contact, semen and juices from a girl's vaginal area. This is a true fact: worldwide 33 million people have HIV. If you are sexually active, please wear a condom. And please get tested once a month to make sure that you haven't contracted any kind of disease.

P.S. Play Safe

Sincerely,
Blake Jones

Written by Ronald Lea

To: **pitbull@yahoo.com**

From: **disneyworld@yahoo.com**

Subject: **The best way not to get HIV is not to have sex**

I know someone who has HIV. The person is scared to tell someone. They think people will not want to hang out with him and that these people will talk about him behind his back.

Keith McCoy

Written by Dreland Walters

To: **12345@yahoo.com**
From: **Bricks_R_Me@yahoo.com**
Subject: **HIV**

Bricks_R_Me@yahoo.com

I just found out that 3210 got AIDS.

RE: 12345@yahoo.com

How did he get it?

Bricks_R_Me@yahoo.com

IDK but you can get it from having sex.

Re: 12345@yahoo.com

He don't have sex do he?

Johnny Bricks

Written by Stephon Watson

To: **Idontknow@yahoo.com**
From: **Hightopbustla183@yahoo.com**
Subject: **HIV**

Waz up? I am emailing you to let you know about this disease HIV that is killing the world off day by day, taking lives all over the world. So being a true friend I wanted to inform you to practice safe sex because HIV kills people. Having oral sex or regular sex can cause this to happen. You might not have any symptoms, and you might not even know you have it. So if you are constantly having sex, you are passing it around. So keep it safe and use a condom at all times. Doesn't matter if he says or she says it makes sex feel better without one. If that is the case then don't have sex because the disease can kill. 33 million people have this disease.

Todd Minks

Anonymous

To: **barbiegurl@yahoo.com**
From: **turner_chara@yahoo.com**
Subject: **HIV/AIDS**

I was born with HIV/AIDS. There are 33 million people that are infected with HIV/AIDS. The bad thing is 25% of the people with HIV/AIDS don't even know they have it. They are mostly people that are infected through birth and or sexual interactions.

Mona Lisa

Written by Chara Turner

To: **dora_danielle.123@yahoo.com**
From: **diva.rayven_01@yahoo.com**
Subject: **AIDS**

Dear Danielle. girl i got something to tell you...ok here it go...tell me why my friend Resneekah got AIDS...OMG...her family was crying and some more stuff...Resheekah didn't know what to do...she believes she got it from sex...her family was so hurt...her kids are still growing up so they don't really know what's going on...but they know something is going on...but she is kinda getting skinny...Resheekah doesn't have sores...she don't know what to do now in this word...she wants help.

Ray Ray

Written by Rayven Bolden

To: **puppylove@yahoo.com**
From: **pinksuite@yahoo.com**
Subject: **HIV**

HIV is not a gay disease...you get it from blood & sex...33 million people have HIV...25% have HIV and don't know it...when you have sex you should wear a condom...a trojan at that...black people can get HIV if they have sex...always remember: play safe!!!

The end!!

Eric Jeter

Written by Tre Bruce

To: **bonecrusher@yahoo.com**
From: **starscream@yahoo.com**
Subject: **Play Safe**

In the world 33 million people have HIV. 25% of these people have HIV and don't even know it. HIV doesn't have anything to do with being a gay disease or straight disease. So, play safe.

William Bone

Written by Justin Daniel

To: **larryfitzgerald@yahoo.com**
From: **Kendall_bruce@yahoo.com**
Subject: **Guess What**

Dear Larry,

Man guess what? i just found out my fifth cousin from Africa got aids. His momma started crying when he found out. All the kids were confused. They said that his great grandma was born with aids. there are 33 million people with HIV in the world. HIV can make you skinny. you can transfer HIV with sores. some people grow up with hiv. lucky for my cousin he's going to get help from magic johnson.

Kevin Rice

Written by Kendall Bruce

To: playaforlife@yahoo.com
From: turner_chara@yahoo.com
Subject: More Info on HIV/AIDS

HIV/AIDS can be transmitted through sex and open wounds. Many people wear condoms, but it's a 50/50 chance that fluid might slip out.

Norma

Written by Chara Turner

To: **camero@yahoo.com**
From: **mustang@yahoo.com**
Subject: **Watch What You Do**

In the United States 1 million people have HIV. You can get it from other people and having sex. Your mother or father could have it and give it to you. Use protection.

Mustang

Written by Justin Daniel

To: **Bam_2010@yahoo.com**
From: **so_fresh@yahoo.com**
Subject: **"Burning on the Block"**

- **So-fresh@yahoo.com**
 - o Sup dude...
 - o Guess what I heard?

- **Bam_2010@yahoo.com**
 - o Sup fam?
 - o And what you hear mane?

- **So-fresh@yahoo.com**
 - o Man I heard that Lil Mama got HIV/AIDS!!!

- **Bam_2010@yahoo.com**
 - o For real???
 - o How did she get it mane, was she having sex?

- **So-fresh@yahoo.com**
 - o Yea mane...
 - o I asked her what happened.
 - o She was like she had unprotected sex.

- **Bam_2010@yahoo.com**

- o Mane dats crazy...
- o I know. She was crying.
- o I would have been hurt too.

- **So-fresh@yahoo.com**

- o Yea I know...
- o Maybe she got it from them open sores
- o Ole boy be having them you know.

- **Bam_2010@yahoo.com**

- o Who Brian?
- o Dang.

Allen Bradford

Written by Michael Jones

To: #1friend@yahoo.com
From: BHAGraves@yahoo.com
Subject: HIV

Dear #1 Friend:

I hope this doesn't affect our relationship, but I was born with HIV. It is hard having to wake up every morning knowing I am HIV positive. The worst part is that my mother refuses to care or help me deal with my situation. I just need someone to talk to.

Sincerely,
BHA

Written by Braylon Graves

To: **KindD@yahoo.com**
From: **King@hotmail.com**
Subject: **Got HIV**

I have HIV. I was born with it. My mother had it when I was born. There are 33 million people with AIDS and 25% of these people don't know they have HIV. It will affect me in school because people will be scared to come and sit next to me. I think they will separate me from the other students.

Written by Donte Lewis

To: divamrayven@yahoo.com
From: dededora0123@yahoo.com
Subject: Gotta Tell You Something

Rayven tell me why Shiqueisha got aids. She had sex with this boy name I'keem. he was real skinny and black. I'keem's momma cried and cried. She would not get him any help. Shiquiesha's mama had two other girls. She said she hope that they don't grow-up and be like Shiquiesha. Her mama was very hurt.

DeDe

Written by Danielle Lewis

To: Playsafe@ymail.com
From: gamerfan22@yahoo.com
Subject: Infected

Over 33 million people are infected with HIV. Many facts say condoms can prevent and help sometimes. There are many ways that you can get AIDS, like from blood, or being born with it, or sexual contact.

Anonymous

The Black Community Developers, Inc. would like to thank all of those involved with this summer project.

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Black Community Developers, Inc.

