

Excessive forums leave students feeling tired and thinking of a new system

Forums. They range from informative meetings about a variety of topics to speakers that come to talk to us during our break period. There seems to be a forum every week, whether it be just for seniors, junior high students, or the whole school. Many of the forums are mandatory. For this reason, students argue that forums take away from time that they spend getting help or doing homework and that some of the forums do not interest or apply to them. Our staff debated the topic and came up with suggestions as to how the situation can be improved.

As students, we want more relevant forums. Instead of excessive forums about hard-core drugs, why not have more forums about DUIs or MIPs?

Drinking is much more common at Prep than drugs, so a forum that would inform us on the consequences of a DUI would be very beneficial to us. There are many sad stories about how children our age did not understand the consequences of getting a DUI and its negative effects on them. Forums that focus more on topics such as these could prevent more of those stories from occurring.

Another suggestion we have to improve forums is to have them take place at a different time during the school day. Many students spend their activity and homeroom period getting help from teachers or getting ahead on their homework for the night. When we have forums, there is no time for students to go get their needed

help. Cutting down the time of forums to where they fit in just activity period or homeroom rather than both would make them more tolerable. Some informative forums take all of our time away from us when, in reality, they could have gotten to the point and finished within 15 minutes. Students need to utilize as much free time as possible, and having shorter forums can help us do that.

We have come to the agreement that the number of forums is excessive. Every year, we have 2 to 3 forums about drugs. If we could cut back to one forum about drugs every year, it would make more sense. Although these types of forums can be beneficial to us, hearing the same argument several times a year about how

drugs are bad can begin to feel monotonous.

Many students would like to have more input on the types of forums we have. An end of the year survey could help collect ideas straight from students about what forums we would like to have. Numerous students have good ideas as to

what forums they would like to have, and an end of the year survey would be a good way for them to give their input.

Another way to make them more interesting would be to give students the decision to go or not. For forums such as Women in Science, the subject does not interest everyone.

