

June 9, 2010  
Recommendation for R5

Dear Sir:

In April of 2010, R5 productions did an assembly for our high school. Our school hasn't had an assembly for a long time. Students had not been good audiences and the expense of an assembly was daunting in this downturn economy.

Our advisor/advisee leaders turned to R5 productions to be the one assembly we were allowed this year. It was culmination of many lessons and activities that students experienced through advisor/advisee concerning bullying and harassment. Our FCCLA sponsor had heard R5 and thought the message "everyone has pain" and having empathy for that pain would be appropriate. R5 proclaims itself as an anti drug program but it is so much more than that. R5 is about finding yourself, accepting yourself, and accepting others, realizing that everyone has a story. R5 is about having a dream and not letting obstacles get in the way of those dreams.

Our students were very quiet during the assembly because they were listening. There is humor, there is reality, there is serious, and it is real world. R5 does not preach, but accepts and understands. It wasn't a typical "don't do drugs" speech. I couldn't believe the engagement of our students. Our presenter for the assembly was Mike Donahue and he did a fantastic job. I also bought his book, Reinventing My Normal, and the students have been checking it out in order to read it. Mike worked with us on the payment for the assembly and was extremely professional and helpful in telephone conversations. He was here on time and ready to roll when we asked for a specific time frame.

I would recommend R5 to any school system. At our school he spoke to 8-12<sup>th</sup> grade and it was very effective.

Sincerely,  
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