

# Special Interests/Current Events/How Informed are You?\*

## Survey Results - Grades 5-8 - December 2004

*The purpose of this survey is to get an idea of where kids in Middle School get the information they use to form opinions on news worthy issues so that when the author writes about teens and news related issues and media – it reflects to the extent possible – actual teen activities and attitudes.*

Do you like having speakers and visitors at school?	92% Yes	8% No
Do you have opinions about things?	70% Yes	30% No
Does anyone ask you for your opinion?	70% Yes	30% No
Do you feel comfortable telling people what your opinions are?	75% Yes	25% No
Do you think your opinion counts?	72% Yes	28% No
Do you try to convince your friends to have the same opinion as you?	29% Yes	71% No
Do you listen to other people's opinions?	89% Yes	11% No
Do you respect other people's opinions if they are different from yours?	90% Yes	10% No
Where do you get most of your information from?	<u>INTERNET, BOOKS, TELEVISION, PEOPLE</u>	
Do you read the newspaper?	50% Yes	50% No
If you read the newspaper, do you believe everything you read?	20% Yes	80% No
If you read the newspaper, what sections do you read?	<u>COMICS, SPORTS, FRONT PAGE, ENTERTAINMENT</u>	
Do you watch the news on TV?	64% Yes	36% No
If you watch the news on TV, do you believe everything a newscaster says?	35% Yes	65% No
If you watch the news on TV, what news do you watch?	<u>SPORTS, WEATHER, DISASTERS, CRIME</u>	
Do you do research and get information from the Internet?	91% Yes	9% No
Do you believe everything you find on the Internet?	14% Yes	86% No
Are you interested in world affairs?	60% Yes	40% No
If you are interested in world affairs, what issues do you follow?	<u>WAR, ENVIRONMENT, DISASTERS</u>	
What personal causes/issues are important to you or interest to you?	<u>SPORTS, ENVIRONMENT, WAR, DISEASES, POVERTY, ANIMALS</u>	

\*Only most common responses have been listed. They accounted for at least 10% of the responses.