



# STUYVESANT HIGH SCHOOL'S SPARK PROGRAM



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## HALLUCINOGENS

### I. About Hallucinogens

- **Drug Class:** Psychoactive – Various Controlled Substances
- **Hallucinogens** are a wide variety of drugs that change one's thought process, mood and perception.



- **At high doses**, these drugs cause people to perceive an experience as actually happening when, in fact, it is not.

#### Common Types of Hallucinogens

#### 1. Psychedelic Hallucinogens:

Psychoactive types whose primary action is to alter the cognition and perception of the mind **i.e.** LSD.

#### 2. Dissociative Hallucinogens:

Class of psychoactive drugs which reduce or block signals to the conscious mind from other parts of the brain.

#### 3. Deliriant Hallucinogens:

A special class of acetylcholine – inhibitor dissociatives **i.e.** semi – conscious state, sleep – walking.

### II. Terms & Slangs

- **Ecstasy:** Adam, E, Lover's Speed, X, XTC. **LSD:** Acid, Blotter, Dots, Hits, Lucy In The Sky With Diamonds, Mellow Yellow, Sugar Cubes, Tabs, Trips, & Window Pane. **Phencyclidine (PCP):** Angel Dust, Boat, Ozone, Rocket Fuel & Wack. **Psilocybin:** Boomers, Caps, Magic Mushrooms, Shrooms & Peyote. **Rohypnol:** Forget Me Drug, Roaches, Roofies & R-2.

#### Some Helpful Resources/Referrals

- **Above The Influence**  
[www.abovetheinfluence.com](http://www.abovetheinfluence.com)
- **National Institute of Drug Abuse**  
[www.drugabuse.gov](http://www.drugabuse.gov)
- **Office of National Drug Control**  
[www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov](http://www.whitehousedrugpolicy.gov)

### III. "About The Buzz"

- **Ecstasy:** Also known as MDMA (methylenedioxymethamphetamine) and the most frequent, Ecstasy is a stimulant that combines the effects of amphetamines and hallucinogens.

#### ▪ Lysergic Acid Diethylamide:

(1) LSD is the most common hallucinogen and is one of the most potent mood-changing chemicals. It is manufactured from lysergic acid, which is found in ergot, a fungus that grows on rye and other grains.



#### ▪ Lysergic Acid Diethylamide:

(2) This hallucinogen produces unpredictable effects, depending on the amount taken, the surroundings in which the drug is used, and the user's personality, mood, and expectations. LSD is taken orally. Gelatin and liquid form can be put in the eyes.

- **Phencyclidine (PCP):** PCP is a white crystalline powder that is readily soluble in water or alcohol. It is a dissociative anesthetic whose sedative and anesthetic effects are trance-like and users experience a feeling of being "out of body" and detached from their environment.



LIQUID PCP



MUSHROOMS

- **Psilocybin & Psilocin:** Are the hallucinogenic principles contained in certain mushrooms. Psilocybin is structurally similar to serotonin and produces its effects by disrupting normal functioning of the serotonin system (**mind-altering effects**).

### IV. Effects & Health Risks

- **Physical Effects 1:** The body can quickly form a tolerance to a hallucinogen, so a user would have to take more and more of the drug for the same effect. **This is very dangerous** because taking stronger doses of any drug may cause severe side effects including overdose.
- **Physical Effects 2:** The use of hallucinogens leads to visual complications, an increase in heart rate and blood pressure. Hallucinogens can put you in a coma. They can also cause heart and lung failure.



- **Psychological Effects:** Hallucinations change the way the brain interprets time, reality and the environment around the user. They also affect the way the user moves, react to situations, think, hear and see. This makes the user think that he/she is hearing voices, seeing images and feeling things that don't exist.
- **Psychological Self-Control:** The effect of hallucinogens varies from time to time and person to person, so there is no way to know how much self-control a user might maintain. Hallucinogens can cause one to mix up speech, lose control of muscles, make meaningless movements and act in irrational, aggressive or violent ways.
- **Psychological Well-being:** The use of hallucinogens change the way the user feels emotionally. They may cause the user to feel confused, suspicious and disoriented. For instance in the case of PCP users, many will experience various and disturbing psychological effects like anxiety, paranoia and delusions.
- **Legal Issue:** Hallucinogens are illegal to buy, sell or possess.