



**“Express This!” Topic: Celebrity Dating and Domestic Violence... What affects are they having on our teens?**

The Education Department at the Suffolk County Coalition Against Domestic Violence (SCCADV) is pleased to announce its 8th Annual “Express This!” contest. The goal of this contest is to excite and incite students in grades 6th through 12th in Suffolk County to respond to dating and domestic violence in any creative format that they choose. Through contest participation, students are able to explore ideas that may be new to them, or may be currently affecting them. Recent statistics find that 59% of high school students reported at least one dating violence incident within the past year.

Due to the positive response that we received from last year’s contest, we are anticipating even greater student involvement in 2010. While the “Express This!” contest allows students to explore their creativity; it also allows them the validation and recognition of their efforts. All contest participants are invited to an awards reception on June 2, 2010 where they will receive certificates; winners will receive prizes; their work will be displayed and/or placed in a collaborated journal (with other entries), and they will enjoy refreshments.

The “Express This!” contest also presents a unique opportunity to educators. The contest allows “real life” issues to be integrated into the classroom in an enlightening and provocative manner. Though students may participate in the contest independently, we find that the results are most effective when educators facilitate the contest.

As a service, SCCADV provides educational workshops surrounding bullying and dating violence to students. Please feel free to contact Christina Jones, the Youth Educator at 631-666-7181 ext. 326, or via email [c.jones@sccadv.org](mailto:c.jones@sccadv.org) to schedule a presentation or if you would like more information about domestic and/or dating violence and the “Express This!” contest.