

# Dos and Don'ts of a Peer Educator

<b>A Peer Educator Does</b>	<b>A Peer Educator Does Not</b>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Facilitate trust, openness, comfort, empathy</li> <li>• Accept people as they are</li> <li>• Listen, clarify, and help people see alternatives</li> <li>• Give support and encouragement to take positive action</li> <li>• Validate people without being phony</li> <li>• Respect confidentiality</li> <li>• Realize that not all problems can be solved and not all people want to be helped</li> <li>• Refer extremely troubled youth to a professional person or group such as a counselor, psychologist, or community agency</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Dominate, preach, tell people what to do</li> <li>• Judge people, try to change them</li> <li>• Give advice, offer solutions</li> <li>• Listen with a casual, wandering attitude</li> <li>• “Rescue” – do for a person what he/she should do independently</li> <li>• Put people down</li> <li>• Gossip about what was said in group or about other youth</li> <li>• Expect all problems to be resolved quickly &amp; easily</li> <li>• Attempt to provide services beyond what he/she is qualified to provide</li> </ul>