Written First Argument
Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education

- Explores the context for and meanings involved in sex
- Promotes Abstinence through sex education
- Acknowledges that many teenagers will and already are sexually active
- Teaches about contraception and condom use
- Includes discussions about contraception, abortion, STIs, and HIV

All the above are very good points. If we look at the statistics, many teenagers are involved in sexual activity. If we only teach abstinence and do not give information about safe sex, teenagers are therefore uninformed of all the consequences and are put at a higher risk for STIs, HIV, and unplanned pregnancies

- The United States has the highest rates of STIs and teen pregnancy in any industrialized country in the world
- Many teenagers are concerned about AIDS and other issues when having sex, but do not think they are personally at risk
- Parents are very naive when it comes to the teaching of sex programs in schools. Most parents believe, “Whether or not teenagers are sexually active they should be given information on unplanned pregnancies and sexually transmitted diseases.” Other parents, only 10%, believe that informing students encourages them to have sex
- Studies prove that teaching children about how to have “safe sex” does not increase sexual activity, but some programs actually reduce the frequency of sex
- Research proves that comprehensive sex education encourages abstinence, promotes appropriate condom use, teaches sexual communication skills, reduces HIV risk behavior, and also delays the onset of sexual intercourse
- Both programs delay the onset of sexual activity, but one in five adolescents will have sex before the age of 15, and only comprehensive sex education is effective in protecting adolescents from pregnancies and STIs
- Abstinence only programs increase unplanned pregnancies and STIs
- Comprehensive sex education includes GLBTQ

As you can see from all the readings and notes, comprehensive human sexuality education is the only way to go. This program is a great program because it promotes abstinence, but also teaches how to practice safe sex, if a person decides they are ready. This program teaches students about how to prevent unplanned pregnancies by the appropriate use of condoms and/or contraceptives. It teaches students about STIs and HIV, and informs students they are at risk. If students are prepared for the risks and consequences they will know how important it is to be safe. Comprehensive sex education is not telling students to go out and have sexual intercourse, it is doing the opposite, just with some information on how to be smart, whether it is at that point in the student’s life or a few years down the road. Comprehensive sex education has proven to be a great program and actually reduces the rate of sexual behavior, along with unplanned pregnancies and STIs.
Revised 1st Argument
Comprehensive Human Sexuality Education

- Most parents, 80-85%, want comprehensive sex education for their children
- Comprehensive sex education includes GLBTQ
  - This is a key factor because GLBTQ cannot get married. How can we teach
    students who consider themselves GLBTQ about abstinence until marriage if
    it is illegal from them to marry one another?
- Abstinence only programs increase unplanned pregnancies and STIs
  - They increase unplanned pregnancies and STIs because students are not prepared
    if they decide to become sexually active. They will not have the knowledge that
    is necessary when making such a big decision.
- Federal policy supports abstinence only programs, but there is no evidence that proves it
  works
- Studies prove that teaching students using comprehensive sex education does not increase
  sexual activity, but some actually reduce the frequency of sex
- Comprehensive sex education has been proven to reduce the number of sexual partners
Reversed 1st Argument
Abstinence Only Programs

- Welfare Reform Act states: social activity outside the context of marriage is likely to have harmful, psychological, and physical effects
- Abstinence teaches that bearing children out of wedlock is said to have harmful consequences for the child, the child's parents and society
  - It is said that the child is less likely to complete high school. The parents are most likely to struggle in society because they usually do not have the means necessary to raise a child.
- Research has shown that adolescent girls that become mothers are less likely to complete high school – You should worry about school, not sex
  - Having a child during high school is not only difficult but very time consuming. Teenagers who are bearing a child must have a lot of doctor's appointments, which takes a lot of time. After the child is born, it requires a lot of time, and if the student cannot afford day care they must stay home to take care of it, therefore, they are unable to complete school
- Many abstinence only advocates think sex education will promote sex
  - If we teach about abstinence, more students will find it appealing because it is what everyone else is doing
- Abstinence only is the only method that is 100% effective in preventing STIs and pregnancy
  - Nothing else, not birth control, not condoms, nothing is more effective than being abstinent. If you are abstinent from sexual activities there is no way you can contract an STI or get pregnant
- DHHS study report found programs had several good intended short term impacts
  - The short term impacts have shown the delay of sexual activity
- DHHS has pledges not to have sex
  - Students are pledging not to have sex; therefore, it is keeping them from having sex. They are making a promise to themselves that they will not have sexual intercourse until marriage, so this reduces the number of students even thinking about participating in sexual activities.
- On the parent survey, 79% felt that 7-8th graders should be taught abstinence
  - This is a majority of parents that think this age level should be taught abstinence.
Consensus Statement

Abstinence only is the only method which is 100% effective against STIs and pregnancy, but the truth is some teenagers are already sexually active. Comprehensive sex education is a great program because it teaches abstinence, while acknowledging that some students are sexually active. Comprehensive sex education teaches the proper use of condoms and contraceptives, teaches about the consequences of having sexual encounters, and teaches good communication skills. This program is beneficial for everyone: GLBTQ, people who wish to remain abstinent, and people who are sexually active. Comprehensive sex education will prepare students, who wish to remain abstinent, for future sexual behaviors when married. They will be fully prepared when they get married. This program is also beneficial for GLBTQ students because they are not allowed to get married. If we teach them abstinence, we are telling them they cannot have sex, which will never be the case when two people are in love and ready. Comprehensive sex education teaches GLBTQ how to be safe, just like the students who make the decision to become sexually active before marriage. This program has been proven to work because it includes all valuable information that students need. It promotes abstinence, but teaches students how to be safe when they are ready to become sexually active.
Works Cited


