Advertising Drugs: Ideas For Teachers

Ideas for Teachers--create your own chart...listing drug names on the left column but mixing up their slogans in the right. Have students match the slogan with the advertised drug. -have students conduct research into how much these drugs cost; how much insurance might cover; what alternatives (generics) might be on the market and their costs Questions for students to consider: Ask students if they remember having seen any prescription drug ads on TV -what is the purpose of these ads? -who is the 'target audience"? how can you tell? -does the ad tell you everything you need to know? if no, why not? -can students recall what condition the ad is aimed at? -why would a particular drug maker choose a specific magazine or TV network for advertising? -what is the purpose of a drug having its own website? -after locating print ads, ask students to consider the images of the people portrayed in these ads: what attributes do they display? -if students were to produce their own prescription drug ad, what key words, phrases or images would be seen or heard?

Student <u>handout</u>: analyzing prescription drug ads, from the PBS Frontline web site