

Critical Notebook 1d: *American Teen*

A. The Moviemaker's Perspective

- *In preparing to make this movie, what principal decisions did director Nanette Burstein have to make? What were the primary challenges that she and the filmmaking team faced?*
- *What are the primary filmmaking techniques used in the film? What types of shots and sequences make up this movie? Are there any effects used and how are they used?*

B. Principles of Communication: Narrative

- *How is this movie structured? How do the moviemakers tell the stories in this movie?*
- *Are there any points of view present in the film? What provides point of view? Is there any changing of point of view in the movie?*

C. Principles of Communication: Editing

- *What editing techniques are present in the movie? Describe the editing in a selection of at least three scenes.*
- *What post-production is necessary for the film? What would you imagine to be the primary challenges facing the director and editing team during post-production?*
- *What changes to image or sound could have been done during post-production?*

D. Questions for Reflection and Brainstorming

- *What are your primary reactions to this movie? Why do you have these reactions?*
- *What observations, if any, have you made about the behavior documented in this movie?*
- *What insights can be made about teen culture in this movie? What interpretations did you make about American society in this film?*
- *In what ways does this film make you “want to know more?” Does this film encourage further investigation, or does it discourage further reflection on the issues presented in the film?*