

Goals, Audience and Content

Goals

ReThinking Behavior is an online publication of the Midwest Symposium for Leadership in Behavior Disorders for professionals serving children and youth with behavioral needs publishing material presenting diverse perspectives on behavior in schools and other settings. The goals of *ReThinking Behavior* are to:

- Lend support and affirmation to and develop a sense of collegiality among those who work with students with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health needs;
- Provide thoughtful and stimulating discussion across disciplinary boundaries;
- Provide a source of analysis and commentary on issues and new directions and ways of thinking about behavior in our schools and other settings;
- Provide current news and information about practice, policy, and research;
- Present personal stories and perspectives of children and youth, their families, service providers, educators, and other interested individuals; and
- Provide a unique online publication presenting edgy and provocative information that may challenge typical viewpoints, including the addition of humor, parody, and fiction.

Audience

Important audiences will include educators who work with students with emotional/behavioral needs (including autism), and/or mental health needs of Pk- 12 grade students. This includes educators who work in special, general, and alternative education settings (such as residential or juvenile justice programs). Support staff for these settings are also potential readers including para-educators, school administrators, school and clinical psychologists and other mental health professionals. Families, and community members, may also find *ReThinking Behavior* of interest. Currently the magazine is sent electronically to about 5000 individuals across the U.S.

Content

ReThinking Behavior will follow a magazine format, rather than a journal format. Successful manuscripts are written in a tone and style appropriate to a magazine; are well-organized; clearly establish the purpose of the article; use specific examples, and try to “show”, not “tell”. As appropriate, articles may summarize relevant research succinctly with minimal but crucial references. Increase readability by being succinct, and direct, with minimal use of technical or discipline specific language. For some articles writing in first person is appropriate. All content will be focused on people, information, situations and perspectives relating to working with children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health needs, and should be accessible by a variety of our audiences (see audience section below).

Articles may do any of these:

- Tell a story about a student or class or situation
- Tell a story about an educator- what they do and why- or the skills that they apply in their work
- Explain new topic, idea or procedure which might be of interest to those working in this field
- Provide tips, advice resources and examples for those who work in this field
- Explain how educators mesh their work with their lives outside of school
- Provide your opinion about an important issue.
- We would also like to include art work, poetry, and fiction by students or educators.

ReThinking Behavior magazine structure- Types of articles needed!

Structure

While not all departments will appear in each issue, the structure of *ReThinking Behavior* will consist of the following departments: Notes, Thoughts, Personals, Features, Results, Policies, Books, After Hours, and Events. A description of each of these with a word length guideline for each follows. In writing an article you might wish to write specifically for one of these sections.

Notes (Editor's Page)

Notes will present the editor's/s' or guest editor's/s' viewpoints related to magazine content which will not necessarily reflect the position of the MSLBD or *ReThinking Behavior*. Editors may explain or clarify content within the particular issue, make note of new ways of thinking that are presented, and/or point out topics for discussion across articles. *Notes* does not have to be tied to any particular article nor written in any particular voice. It will be concise and brief, one-half to one magazine page, up to 700 words. *Notes* will be published in every issue.

Thoughts (From Our Readers)

Periodically *ReThinking Behavior* will solicit feedback from and promote discussion among its readers through online polling and emails which will be published in *Thoughts* in some issues.

Voices

The *Voices* section will present personal perspectives through a wide range of articles.

- Professional Profiles/Interviews with individuals currently working in the field
- Most memorable students first-person accounts by teachers and support staff of their most memorable students. This content may come from the approximately 75 accounts currently available on the MSLBD website.
- Interviews with leaders in the field as collected through the JANUS Project as taken from the 60+ video interviews available on the MSLBD website.
- Personal Accounts written by individuals about issues, experiences, reactions, or opinions will be accepted. Educators, administrators, paraeducators, support staff, students, families, mental health professionals, community members, and others interested in children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health needs are invited to submit articles written in a first-person point of view.

Voices articles will range from one to five magazine pages, approximately 600 to 2,000 words.

Two or more *Voices* articles will be published in every issue.

Features

As the name implies, *Features* will include two or three longer articles. These feature articles can include several writing styles:

- Journalistic, involving a number of sources to capture a single or multiple aspects of a subject;
- Essays incorporating personal observations or experiences with research;
- Interviews with an individual or individuals in the field;
- Reviews of literature; and
- Best practices articles, presenting effective strategies for working with students with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health needs.

Features articles should range from four to eight magazine pages, approximately 1,500 to 4,000 words. Two or more *Features* articles will be published in every issue.

Strategies

The major purpose of *Strategies* will be to present effective strategies, interventions, practices for students, teachers, schools, support staff, and parents related to the behavior of students.

Articles can include:

- Best practices articles, presenting effective strategies for working with students with emotional, behavioral, and/or mental health needs;
- Summaries of lines of research, effective classroom practices, curricular materials or other media and/or behavioral interventions;
- Excerpts of keynote presentations from past MSLBD; and
- Reviews of resources, materials, or strategies related to behavior.

Strategies may include one or two longer articles or several shorter articles. Articles published will be reader-friendly with minimal use of technical or discipline specific language. *Strategies* articles should range from three to nine magazine pages, approximately 1,000 to 4,000 words. One or more *Strategies* articles will be published in every issue.

Policies

Policies will present legal updates, highlighting current key policy issues. Topics might include court cases, letters to colleagues, state or federal laws, and related legal issues. *Policies* articles will range from one or three magazine pages, approximately 600 to 1,300 words. One or more *Policies* articles will be published in every issue.

Media

This section will focus on several types of media initially including podcasts, books, film/documentary, television, news, and the Internet. *Media* articles can present media related to children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs, their educators, families, service providers, and communities, discuss new and/or classic works, and engage readers in discussion. *Media* articles will range from one or three magazine pages, approximately 600 to 1,400 words. Two or more *Media* articles will be published in every issue.

After Hours

After Hours will explore the lives of students and professionals within and beyond the school day. *After Hours* can include fiction, poetry, humor, art, and narrative. Selections will range from light and whimsical to emotional and tragic related to behavior beyond and supporting the goals of *ReThinking Behavior*. Original material, in addition to excerpts from classic works or literature can included. While most submissions will come from individuals interested in children and youth with emotional, behavioral, and mental health needs, student writings will also be considered for *After Hours*. These articles will range from one or three magazine pages, approximately 300 to 2,000 words. One or more *After Hours* articles will be published in every issue.

Events

This section will list events including the MSLBD, PBIS, CCBD, and other key conferences and events in the field.

For additional information contact

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