

Anime Clubs for Teens



What is Anime?

Anime is a complex, visually-stunning form of Japanese animation. Anime deals with themes and storylines that are important to teens: love, global violence, sexuality, and death. As such, anime is incredibly appealing to teens, and if you want teens in your building, you may want to consider starting an anime club at your library. Many anime companies will allow you to show their works for free, as long as you do not charge an admission fee and request permission ahead of time.

Bandai

Bandai Entertainment, <http://www.bandai-ent.com>, has started a new Anime Addicts club, <http://www.animeaddict.org/>. When you join, they send you a free DVD to show at your library (and to keep!), along with slick mini-posters and ads to advertise the showing. Show the DVD and have the teens fill out the online survey. As long as you keep sending in reviews, they'll keep sending you a DVD.

Pioneer

Pioneer Anime, <http://www.geneonanimation.com/>, is also supportive of anime clubs, as long as you seek permission ahead of time. Contact animemaster@pioneer-usa.com for further information.

Is it appropriate?

As the anime folks will tell you, anime addresses issues like violence and sexuality, so of course some of it is high level. There are, however, lots of great anime shows you can view with your younger teens too. One of the best resources online is The Parent's Guide to Anime, <http://www.abcb.com/parents/>, complete with ratings and summaries. Again, these titles are from different companies, however, so you have to address licensing for each company individually.

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