

## Drugs as Opposed to Senses Activating Reward System

So, what happens if instead of getting something from your five senses, you get something chemically? Like for instance marijuana, methamphetamine and all of a sudden that hits this same area, what do you think happens? So, you are going to have a situation where, and let me let me back up and show you, because I want to make sure you see this in context of the brain. So, you see the blue the green and the red areas? So, these are going to be nerves that go to those specific areas. The VTA, the Nucleus Accumbens. This is the Locus Cereuleus. If you look on this chart what you realize is, if I'm using nicotine or barbiturates, there's a good chance it's going to fire right here. It's going to innervate this particular place. That then is going to send a signal to the VTA to make dopamine. Or maybe I'm using opioids. So if you look up at the very very top, way up there. You got opioids, ethanol, benzodiazepines. So, if I'm using those I'm going to stimulate the VTA, produce dopamine, and it's going to go to the Nucleus Accumbens. What if I use something like cocaine or amphetamines? That's actually going to go straight to the Nucleus Accumbens and have an effect of there. All of these, at the end of the day, are affecting your dopamine reward circuit. That's the bottom line.