



Strategies & Approaches for Supporting and Cultivating Young Leaders

For Global Minds Club Advisors

A. Talk out some of these questions every week or so with student leaders:

- What is your goal/where do you want to go with this? How do you plan to get there?
- What's the next step? How can we accomplish it?
- Why was what we did today important?
- How would you change what we did today in the future?
- What should we stop/decrease or start/increase better embody your vision and our goals for Global Minds?

B. Effective ways to interact with student leaders:

- Encourage them to share their talent/ideas/capacities
- Recognize their effort and specific aspects of their actions, then connect these to tangible results you see
- Help them set goals for themselves and reach them
- Make them know you value their contributions, time, and effort
- Help them collaborate with and delegate to other students so all responsibilities don't fall on them

Activities to Cultivate Leadership in Youth

A. Stand by your Quote¹

Objective (s): To introduce leadership discussion, awareness, and self-reflection.

Activity Description: Place thoughtful leadership quotes on the walls. Leave plenty of room between the quotes and make certain the print is large. It works best if the quotes touch on different aspects of leadership and you have a variety of different quotes.

¹ Modified from <http://www.workshopexercises.com/Leadership.htm>

Ask the participants to leave their chairs and walk around the room reading each of the quotes in no particular order. Then have them stand by one quote that resonates well with their personal views on what makes a good leader or how they'd like to be a leader. When all participants have selected a quote (you can have more than one person by a quote), have each explain to the group why his or her chosen quote is important to him/her. They can also discuss examples they've seen of someone, including themselves, exhibiting this. Brainstorm as a group obstacles to becoming these types of leaders and discuss how to overcome these.

B. Spot the Differences

Objective: To differentiate between a boss and a leader.

Activity Description: Give everyone two sheets of paper and some drawing materials. On one paper, each student (or team if you want to do it in pairs) should draw a picture of a boss. On the other paper, they should draw a picture of a leader. Brainstorm characteristics that go with each. Have each student choose the three characteristics of a leader that they most want to embody.

C. Own your Awesome

Objective: To compare/contrast the strengths of youth versus adults, and to plan based on their strengths as teens.

Activity Description: Make a T-chart on the board of strengths of youth/teens and strengths of adults. Have the student(s) brainstorm typical positive characteristics of each group. They can feel free to discuss potential weaknesses of adults and teens/youth.

Watch Adora Svitak's TED Talk, *What adults can learn from kids*. Discuss the special and unique strengths that teens/youth have compared to adults. Now have students plan an activity or two by using these strengths that they have. The activities could also aim to highlight strengths of teens/youth.

