



Stand Up Speak Out

Quaglia Institute • New England League of Middle Schools • Southern New Hampshire University

The Quaglia Institute for Student Aspirations' *Stand Up, Speak Out* leadership conference is an exciting opportunity for middle school students to learn skills necessary to be effective leaders in their schools. In the eyes of middle school students, the "cool" of college students, combined with interactive leadership activities, creates a captivating learning environment. During the conference, trained college students led workshops designed to help your middle schoolers recognize their leadership potential and learn leadership skills to inspire change in their schools and communities. After the ice-breakers and team-building in the main hall, students moved through workshops with students from other middle schools in 16 teams:

Self-Worth... To help students understand Self-Worth they participated in team building activities. Effective leaders know that being successful is not a one-person show. Students learned how to best utilize each person's strength in a team setting. Games included Stepping Stones (get your team safely across the lava!); Tower Building (how high can you build it?); and Group Gifts (use everyone's talents to raise money for a good cause).

Engagement... To help students understand Engagement they participated in activities related to speaking and listening. Effective leaders know how to communicate. Students learned how to speak confidently and listen attentively. Drawing Dictation (can you replicate a geometric drawing someone is describing to you without seeing it?); Tag Team Debate (how do you argue for a position you are actually against?); and College to Middle School Conversation (get the story about high school and college from those who have been there).

Purpose... To help students understand Purpose they participated in activities related to their responsibilities as a student leader. Effective student leaders stay focused and develop actions to reach their goals. Students learned how to decide what is important and what is not. Values Auction (how much are you willing to pay for Happiness, Health, Education, etc. and why?); The Life Boat (classic decision making exercise); and What Would You Do If... (scenarios that ask students what they would do in various moral dilemmas).

Quaglia Student Survey Data... Students are taught to analyze and interpret student voice perception data. Students identified personal goals as well as areas in which to improve the teaching and learning environment at their school. They took steps toward developing an actionable plan to be implemented back at their your school.

In addition to implement the plan they started to develop at the end of the day, we are asking for three action items:

1. Please email nelms@nelms.org with a brief description of your school's challenge and proposed solution. We would love to know what projects came out of SUSO. Please do that ASAP.
2. Please make a digital representation (Powerpoint, video, etc.) in February of the status of your project at that point. What has changed at your school as a result of Student Voice? What process did you use? Where did students gain a seat at the table where meaningful decisions are made? Please submit this to nelms@nelms.org by March 1, 2017.
3. Please complete and have your students complete the respective feedback forms by clicking these links:
 - a. [SUSO Student Feedback](#)
 - b. [SUSO Chaperone Feedback](#)

Resources

www.quagliainstitute.org

[Project Aspire \(QISA's online PD\)](#)

[Russ Quaglia at Corwin](#)

[Russ Quaglia Twitter](#)

[Walking the Talk: The School Voice Chronicles \(Dr. Corso's Blog\)](#)