

YOUTH ID

YOUNG LEADERS & ADVOCATES PROGRAM

WORKBOOK

November 27 - December 18, 2020



WEEK TWO: "ADVOCACY"

THE OBJECTIVES OF THIS WEEK ARE:

- To define advocacy
- To understand the importance of objectivity and critical thinking when defending a cause
- Provide advice to seek the truth in the midst of fake news.

DEFINITION:

There are numerous definitions of advocacy, but in essence they all provide the same idea.

Advocacy is the act of speaking on the behalf of or in support of another person, place, or thing.

Many times, this is done on behalf of others that are afraid to speak up or haven't found a way to make their voices heard, or in defense of causes no one dares to speak up about.

According to the Cambridge dictionary to advocate is to "to publicly support or suggest an idea, plan, or way of doing something". Advocacy is not only vocal support; it also leads us to action. The type of action that can change realities. Sometimes we might think we need to have a specific personality, influence, or resources to become advocates. But we can all spark that change wherever we are. This week's theme is advocacy because we all have causes that are dear to our hearts.



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As we were discussing in last week's material: the best leaders inspire action, and this action often leads to change. But always remember advocacy requires patience and determination. We CAN change the reality, but even though when those changes don't come as fast as we would like to, if we persevere, we will achieve our goals together. Think about how water droplets shape stones. Drop by drop we can eventually break the rock. Consistency and truth conquer everything.

Think about it:

This week we would like you to reflect upon a cause that you feel passionate about, something that you would like to help improve or change. Choose one cause, you will be developing it further in the following weeks.

When advocating for a cause, two things are important: Critical Thinking and Objectivity.

FROM THE CAMBRIDGE DICTIONARY:

Critical thinking:

Is the process of thinking carefully about a subject or idea, without allowing feelings or opinions to affect you.

Objectivity:

The fact of being based on facts and not influenced by personal beliefs or feelings:



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It is important to ensure our advocacy is based on reality and not influenced by our personal experiences, emotions, or the general public opinion. This era of globalization and social media has brought us closer as humans, we now know what is happening in the other side of the world in real time, and we can support causes or people that are suffering far away; however, social media has also brought with it fake news. Everyone has the power to publish their ideas, opinions, and versions of the story to the extent that we can lose the facts and truth on the way. For this reason, it is important that we get informed responsibly so we can generate objective opinions and we don't just "go with the flow". Leaders chase after the truth and lead others to it.

We leave you with a text to reflect upon:

"I'm sorry, but I don't want to be an emperor. That's not my business. I don't want to rule or conquer anyone. I should like to help everyone - if possible. We all want to help one another. Human beings are like that. We want to live by each other's happiness - not by each other's misery. We don't want to hate and despise one another. In this world there is room for everyone. And the good earth is rich and can provide for everyone. The way of life can be free and beautiful, but we have lost the way. "The Kingdom of God is within man" - not one man nor a group of men, but in all men! In you! You, the people have the power - the power to create machines. The power to create happiness! You, the people, have the power to make this life free and beautiful, to make this life a wonderful adventure. Let us use that power - let us all unite. Let us fight for a new world - a decent world that will give men a chance to work - that will give youth a future and old age a security. Let us fight to free the world - to do away with national barriers - to do away with greed, with hate and intolerance. Let us fight for a world of reason, a world where science and progress will lead to all men's happiness."

-Charles Chaplin's Final speech from The Great Dictator

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TASKS OF THE WEEK

For this week you need to:

- ☑ Watch the following videos that will guide you on how to improve critical thinking and form objective opinions.
- ☑ Reflect on the provided list of questions.
- ☑ Start thinking about a cause you would like to work for.

I. WATCH THE FOLLOWING VIDEOS:

- **How to see past your own perspective and find truth- Michael Patrick Lynch (Philosopher)**

“It’s as if we know more but understand less” - Lynch.

In this video Lynch reflects on the impact social media has on our objectivity. Lynch speaks about the difference between accepting presented facts and really understanding what’s behind the information that’s provided to us. He advises on how to be more active when seeking for knowledge to find the truth.

Link:

https://www.ted.com/talks/michael_patrick_lynch_how_to_see_past_your_own_perspective_and_find_truth#t-854287



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- **CRITICAL THINKING - Fundamentals: Introduction to Critical Thinking**

With this video you will learn about the keys to developing your critical thinking skills to distinguish what is behind your reasons for believing something.

Link:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Cum3k-WgIfw>

HOW TO SEEK THE TRUTH IN THE ERA OF FAKE NEWS- CHRISTIANE AMANPOUR (JOURNALIST AND TELEVISION HOST)

Key Message:

“Really be careful where you get your information from, take responsibility for what you read, listen to, and watch. Make sure that you go to the trusted “brands/sources” to get your main information. Stick with the brand names that you know, because in this world right now: our crises, our challenges, our problems are so severe, that unless we are all engaged as global citizens that appreciate the truth, who understand science, empirical evidence and facts. Then we are just simply going to be wandering along to a potential catastrophe.”

Watch complete video here (optional):

https://www.ted.com/talks/christiane_amanpour_how_to_seek_truth_in_the_era_of_fake_news#t-1066162



QUESTIONS FOR REFLECTION

- When you defend a cause do you use the “popular” arguments most people use to defend it, or do you try to give real, reliable arguments based on concrete evidence?
- Do you consider yourself as an independent thinker, or more like someone who follows the general opinion?
- Think about popular causes that are being debated about worldwide. Do you believe these are objective and based on the truth or are they more subjective and fueled by a group’s interest and emotivity?



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