



My Voice, My Future

A series of webinars for students to amplify their voices in positive ways. (Grades 6-12)

Rationale

All of us are living in a time of uncertainty. For students, it can be particularly challenging to become motivated to learn when the teaching and learning process for the school year is unsettled.

This past academic year, with the unanticipated switch to online classes, we noticed students became less engaged. Virtual classrooms required students to be more independent and assume greater responsibility for their learning. Students simultaneously faced new challenges related to time management and how to use their voices in meaningful ways.

We know that decreased motivation and engagement often leads to higher absenteeism and dropout rates. We also know that while change and uncertainty present their own set of inherent challenges, educators and students can work together to create a collaborative learning experience where individuals feel heard and valued, and where students thrive.

The Quaglia Institute created an extensive and comprehensive series of webinars for students designed to celebrate their voices and increase engagement in learning. These webinars will help students develop the skills necessary to navigate the inevitable changes in their educational lives. Whether students have attended the same school for years, are transitioning to a new school, or are beginning a year with online classes, the webinars are structured to engage students' voices in a thought-provoking way and help them reach their personal, social and academic potential. In addition to being provided with cognitive challenges in school, students must be encouraged to capitalize on the power and potential of their voices.

When students have a voice they are...

- 3X more likely to experience self-worth in school.
- 5X more likely to be engaged in school.
- 5X more likely to have a sense of purpose in school.

While educators cannot alleviate all the stress associated with the varied and shifting academic scenarios, they can provide students with tools to make learning motivating, engaging and productive. The My Voice, My Future webinars will do just that!

Goals and Projected Outcomes for Students

- Greater understanding of the power and influence of their own voices;
- Increased responsibility for their own learning;
- Improved academic performance and engagement in learning;
- Positive and less stressful transition when entering a new school; and
- Enhanced self-worth and sense of purpose.

Major Components of Student Voice Webinars

1. Six 20-minute sessions designed specifically for students in middle and high school;
2. All six sessions are asynchronous and available beginning September 1, 2020;
3. Sessions can be viewed in any order, providing students more control over their learning;
4. Sessions will be available throughout the academic year, allowing students to revisit sessions of particular interest or need;
5. Additional resources are included with each webinar, allowing students to further their learning in the specific areas; and
6. A student reflective guide accompanies each session to further assist students with processing and personalizing their learning.

Delivery of Sessions

1. The online sessions are designed to have students understand the importance of their voices and establish a set of personal and academic goals for the upcoming academic year. The sessions available to students are:
 - a. *Understanding the Power of **My Voice***
 - b. *Using **My Voice** for the Good of the Whole*
 - c. *Putting **My Voice** Into Action*
 - d. *Building Positive Relationships With **My Voice***
 - e. *Goal Setting Driven by **My Voice***
 - f. *Amplifying **My Voice** During Transitions*
2. Each session is introduced by Dr. Quaglia and delivered by at least one staff member from the Quaglia Institute.
3. Students are provided additional resources and encouraged to reflect and journal during each session.
4. Sessions are accessed securely through the Quaglia Institute's online platform.
5. Sessions are pre-recorded and delivered asynchronously. Students may view the webinars in any order they wish and as many times as desired throughout the academic year.

Cost

\$5.00 per enrolled student. This provides access to all six webinars. Students may view the webinars an unlimited number of times, at their convenience, throughout the academic year. Schools register online and payment may be submitted through the Quaglia Institute's website.

For more information, please contact the Quaglia Institute at info@QuagliaInstitute.org or visit our website at QuagliaInstitute.org.