



My Voice, My Future

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

Rationale and Scope of Proposed Work

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 upcoming 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 own 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 is proposing 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 30-minute sessions designed specifically for students in middle and high school;
2. All six sessions will be 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 to students throughout the academic year, allowing students to revisit sessions of particular interest or need;
5. Additional readings will be available so that students may further their learning in the specific areas; and
6. Each session will end with an online challenge.

Proposed Plan of Delivery

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** in a New School*
2. Each session will be introduced by Dr. Quaglia and delivered by at least one staff member from the Quaglia Institute.
3. Students will be provided additional readings and encouraged to journal after each session.
4. Sessions will be delivered securely through the Quaglia Institute's online platform.
5. Sessions will be pre-recorded and delivered asynchronously. Students will be allowed to view the webinars in any order they wish and as many times as desired.

Cost

\$5.00 per enrolled student. This provides access to all six webinars. The webinars can be viewed an unlimited number of times by each enrolled student, at their convenience. 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.