



Student Voice Case Study: Telling a Story

Background: For the purpose of our learning journey, a case study is a short story or narrative that focuses on a specific initiative, personal learning experience, or school-level change related to student voice. This project requires Voice Advocates to determine what they want to accomplish related to student voice and articulate the purpose. Is the goal of the initiative to educate staff and students about student voice? Change pedagogy? Influence the way the school lives out the voice definition? Consider what you can do to enhance your school and district's understanding and development of student voice.

Resources: QISVA has myriad resources to support your understanding and implementation of student voice work. Resources include books, articles, templates, webinars, and the QISVA team, which is just an email away if you would like further support or guidance.

Analysis:

Analysis of your progress, challenges, revisions, and outcomes should occur throughout your journey. What is working? What is not working? Is the goal being achieved? For example, after conducting a student interview, you may learn that the method used for collecting students' ideas is not working. Recognize this as an opportunity to redirect your actions AND document what you learned. Why didn't the original method work? Why is the change more effective?

Step #1: What is the purpose?

As a Voice Advocate, determine the goal of implementing specific student voice actions. Perhaps you have adjusted your pedagogy or started a new approach to school-wide student leadership. Document the journey as you implement the voice changes in your classroom, school, or district.

Step #2: Who needs to be interviewed to understand the full story?

Most case studies involve interviewing individuals to better understand the impact of the initiative. Including different perspectives helps present a complete story. Reach out to students, teachers, administrators, etc. to conduct interviews.

Step #3: What documents need to be collected and analyzed to enhance understanding?

Documentation is an important part of a case study. This might include pictures, students' work, or anything that would help individuals understand the learning. Gather the appropriate documentation to help effectively describe the journey.

Step #4: Tell the story.

Reflect on your analysis throughout the process to determine what you learned and what your recommendations are for students, colleagues, and the district. Then tell the story! It is important to be concise (2 to 3 pages) and include "ah-ha" moments and next steps.

Visit quagliainstitute.org/library/case-studies to view a variety of case studies related to the Quaglia Institute's voice and aspirations work and quagliainstitute.org/library/showcasing-schools to see how schools are making a difference with voice.