

Inspirations

Overview

This activity shares stories of success from the students' school and in other schools across NSW and asks participants to think about how successes were achieved.

Learning intentions

- To read or hear about initiatives of other individual students / or groups of students in their school setting and acknowledge their achievements.
- To identify their steps or actions that helped with the success of their initiative.

Resources

The following articles are examples of stories of success from schools across NSW. Facilitators and students can share other articles or examples from their school. Please note: a variety of student stories will be useful for broadening students' perceptions of student led initiatives and student leadership.

<https://education.nsw.gov.au/news/latest-news/fundraising-for-change-makes-cents-to-10-year-old>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2019-04-18/wagga-wagga-students-fundraise-for-people-in-need/11018646>

<https://www.abc.net.au/news/2018-11-06/nutri-grain-box-to-feature-women-after-daliah-lee-protests/10467508>

<https://www.theleader.com.au/story/5701830/student-solar-powers-his-school-slashing-thousands-off-the-energy-bill/#slide=3>

<https://www.kidsnews.com.au/humanities/school-students-send-letters-urging-farmers-to-keep-believing-the-drought-will-end/news-story/1147fc0180fa07903c60c56b19dc2f97>

Activity: Stories of success

Instructions

- Give each group an article or share a story of success, and ask students to reflect on the following questions in their groups:
 - Is it a group or an individual that has initiated the project or idea?
 - Is it student initiated or teacher initiated?
 - Is it to help the classroom, the school or the community?

- Who helped the individual student / group achieve their goal?
- What resources did they need? What support did they get?
- What inspired them to want to do something?
- What action or change are they trying to make, for example: raise money to support a charity, being kind and supporting others in need, creating something to help others, improving facilities, having a positive impact on the environment
- What values are being demonstrated? For example, friendship, compassion, environmental awareness, harmony.
- Invite each group to feedback key points to the entire group. Make a list of similarities or ideas people found interesting.

Debriefing questions

- What surprised or interested you about these/this story? Answers might include how young the student was; the difference their idea/ project had for others.
- Why is it so important to get support when developing ideas or proposals? In our school, who would you ask for: support? permission? Answers might include, getting feedback and other ideas to help think through a proposal. Students might suggest asking the deputy principal or year advisor or another school staff for support and approval.
- What strategies used by the individual students in the stories could you try or use? For example, asking for help from a teacher/peer; starting off small and testing ideas, working with a team.
- There are many different ideas and initiatives student leadership groups can do beyond fundraising. How have some of the stories you have shared inspired you? Some students might share ideas that they would like to discuss further with the student leadership team.

Concluding comments

While not every project may end up as a published 'story of success', remember to:

- ask for help and work with others: working as a team can help share tasks, bring new ideas and solutions
- think about learning to walk or ride a bike or any other skill you have – it often takes time and practice to develop our skills
- see challenges or setbacks as a learning opportunity
- set goals to work towards: short term goals can help us develop skills and build strengths to take on further challenges.