Presentation Objectives

- Why teach leadership
- How to teach leadership
- Skills and Supports in teaching leadership
- Challenges to teaching leadership
- An example of teaching leadership
- Please ask questions or deliver feedback at any point during this presentation.

A Case Study

Thursday Morning, a student approaches you, concerned about the amount of garbage students are leaving in the public spaces at school.

How is the above an opportunity to teach leadership?

Why Teach Leadership?

- Helps to create functional and healthy community norms
- Helps students to see how their actions impact the greater community and to be responsible for those actions
- Helps teachers provide students with consistent and predictable feedback about their behavior
- Need to prepare students for a complicated and interconnected world
- Is the course the entire faculty teaches together
- Something that schools have done somewhat unintentionally and now need to do with intention

How is Leadership Taught?

- By taking advantage of teachable moments that arise throughout the daily experience of our students.
- By incorporating teaching leadership into the existing curriculum.

Utilizing the Teachable Moment

1. Self-awareness of how his or her behavior impacts the group.
2. An understanding of how the minds of adolescents work.
3. A set of skills and ideas about leadership that the teacher can apply in a given situation.
Creating Self-Awareness

- Faculty members need to model self-awareness by asking for feedback.
- Faculty members need to help students develop self-awareness by providing students with feedback.
- Students need to have meaningful opportunities to try out leadership behaviors and to have help reflecting on those experiences.
- When giving feedback, teachers need to focus on the effect of the behavior on the group.

Tools for Teaching Leadership

- Rules for Effective Feedback
- Rubric of Student Leadership Characteristics
- “I” Messages
- Process/Content Model
- Common understanding among faculty members of the need to take advantage of the Teachable Moment

Challenges to Teaching Leadership

- Teaching leadership is messy and not formulaic
- A large portion of the community needs to see learning about leadership as central to the success of the community
- Impact of teaching leadership is difficult to measure
- Difficult to ensure consistent teaching
- Teachers need resources and training to feel competent in delivering and receiving feedback
- Students need real responsibility and meaningful support in approaching responsibility
- Experiences need scaffolding to help students learn how to lead. This takes time.
A Case Study

Thursday Morning, a student approaches you, concerned about the amount of garbage students are leaving in the public spaces at school. How is the above an opportunity to teach leadership?

Discussion of the Case Study

• The trash thrown on the ground is just content (like physics, English, or soccer)
• We help students learn to lead from the experiences they have, from the teachable moments that arise, and how we help them reflect on those experiences.
• Leaders need to be self-aware and understand how their behavior impacts the group. Leadership can be taught through students having and reflecting on experiences. We need to help them navigate the challenges they see and have.

Communities Require Capable Leadership

Capable student leaders help other students:
1. Make good decisions.
2. Understand the implications of their actions on others.
3. Understand and buy into healthy community norms. We need to help create competent student leaders in our communities.

Questions?

• Feedback and Reflection are central to helping students develop leadership competencies.
• Questions?
• Feedback?

Contact Information

• geLi Leadership Lab 2008 – June 13-19 at Fountain Valley School of Colorado
• Please visit www.fvs.edu/geLi for more information.
• Thank you for coming today and, if you have more thoughts or questions, please contact me.

Jlacasse@fvs.edu
412-968-3057