

The Beloved Community:

Engaging Student Leaders through Diversity

Presented By

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The Beloved Community



“Our goal is to create a beloved community, and this will require qualitative change in our souls and quantitative change in our lives.”

Listening Exercise

(in groups of 4, with a phone or watch to keep time)

- One person shares a 2-minute story of a time they stood up for something or someone based on principle.
- The other three people in the group listen for different things: 1) actions 2) values, and 3) emotions.
- Each listener has up to 1 minute to say what they heard.



Listening Roles



- Listen for **ACTIONS** (who, what, when, where, how)
- Listen for **INTENTIONS** and **VALUES** (what values, commitments, or intentions shape the speaker's actions, decisions, or perspective)
- Listen for **EMOTIONS** (how the speaker feels about her/his actions or choices)

Our School



The Fenn School - Concord, MA
330 boys, grades 4-9

Fenn School Core Values



COURAGE

HONESTY

EMPATHY

RESPECT

EDUCATE RESPONSIBLE LEADERS

*The Fenn educational program should foster in students the knowledge, perspective, and **skills** necessary to lead in a diverse world. The Fenn community should maintain a culture of inclusivity, access, respectfulness, and equity in its values, policies, and practices.*

Fenn Structures: “Use What You’ve Got”

- Daily All-School Meetings
- Respecting Differences Days
etc
- Lunch time meetings
- Public speaking competitions
- Assemblies
- Community building events
- Student Committees
- Conferences



Student Diversity Committee

- **Charge** for SDC members
- **Guidelines** / ground rules for discussions
- **Identity**: The Mask We Wear
- **Communication** Skills
- Presentation **Skills** / Public Speaking
- **Identify** a challenge
- Analyze
- Take **Action** (Sense of Agency)



Student Leadership Opportunities

Lead Workshops at Annual Cultural Arts Festival

Facilitate Discussion With Parents and Faculty about Difficult Conversations

Sing, Dance, and Recite during annual Martin Luther King Assembly

Present to Faculty about student and family organized Service Learning trip to Jamaica



Communication skills



Diversity Committees Initiatives

Fund Raising In Support of blind students in Ghana

Participate in annual WW Fenn Speaking Contest

Conduct an Audit of Accessibility for Disabilities on Campus

Present at AISNE (Regional) Diversity Conferences



Video & Anecdotes

- Student testimonials

Discussion

- How has your school inspired students to lead and monitor the climate of your school?
- In what ways has your institution developed leadership skills and character in boys?
- What practices are needed to develop in boys a sense of responsibility toward the "beloved community?"

Reflection

“A leader is best when people barely know he exists. When his work is done, his aim fulfilled, they will say: we did it ourselves.”

—Lao Tzu

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