

## SEQUENCING

# YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

### JASON

DURING 1ST PERIOD MY SCHOOL IS SURVEYING ALL OF US ABOUT OUR THOUGHTS ON THE AFTER-SCHOOL PROGRAMS THAT ARE BEING OFFERED AND WHAT EACH PROGRAM COULD IMPROVE. I'M GLAD THEY ARE ASKING US WHAT WE WANT. I WAS PRETTY HONEST ON MY THOUGHTS ABOUT POETS, I REALLY LOVE THAT GROUP AND WISH THAT THE SCHOOL WOULD PROMOTE IT MORE. I WONDER WHAT KIND OF INPUT MY PEERS GAVE. MAYBE WE WILL FIND OUT IN ONE OF THE UPCOMING SCHOOL ANNOUNCEMENTS.

### SAMANTHA

POETS ADVISORY BOARD ONLY HAD ONE YOUTH SPOT ON IT, AND LUCKILY I WAS INVITED TO BE THE YOUTH REPRESENTATIVE. I ALSO PARTICIPATE IN BAND, THEATRE, AND YOUTH VOLUNTEER CORPS, SO I AM USUALLY REALLY BUSY AND TIRED WITH ALL OF THOSE THINGS PLUS SCHOOL. POETS RECENTLY AWARDED ME "YOUTH F THE YEAR" FOR ALL OF THE AMAZING INPUT I'VE BEEN ABLE TO PROVIDE. I REALLY LOVE BEING ON THE ADVISORY BOARD BUT SOMETIMES I WISH THERE WERE MORE YOUNG PEOPLE ON THE BOARD WITH ME. IT'S KIND OF INTIMIDATING TO BE THE ONLY TEENAGER IN A ROOM FULL OF ADULTS. I DON'T ALWAYS FEEL LIKE MY VOICE IS BEING HEARD.

### SUSAN

POETS HAS ASSIGNED US ALL ROLES TO HELP PLAN THE ANNUAL "HOLLA-DAY" PARTY THIS YEAR. EACH GROUP IS WORKING WITH AN ADULT MENTOR WHO'S ALSO A TEACHER. THEY ARE LETTING US BUILD THE AGENDA FOR THE EVENING, CURATE THE GUEST LIST, AND CHOSE THE SNACKS AND REFRESHMENTS! ALL OUR CHOICES HAVE TO BE APPROVED BY OUR TEACHER MENTOR OF COURSE. I FEEL LIKE I'M LEARNING LOTS OF PLANNING AND LEADERSHIP SKILLS.

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### ANTHONY

I'VE BEEN TUTORING MY PEERS FOR THE PAST YEAR AND I LOVE IT! MY MENTOR IN POETS MENTIONED THAT THEY WERE LOOKING FOR VOLUNTEERS TO HELP WITH TUTORING AND I THOUGHT THAT WOULD BE A GOOD WAY TO HELP OUT. THE VOLUNTEER HOURS ARE A HUGE HELP BECAUSE I HAVE TO GET 100 HOURS BY THE END OF THE YEAR FOR NATIONAL HONORS SOCIETY. WE BASICALLY EVALUATE THE AREAS THAT THE STUDENTS NEED HELP IN WITH AN ENTRANCE ASSESSMENT, WORK WITH MENTORS TO DEVELOP STUDY PLANS, TEACH DIFFERENT TECHNIQUES AND HELP WITH HOMEWORK. THIS PROCESS LAST FOR 10 WEEKS INTERVALS AND THEN I MEET WITH MY MENTOR TO DISCUSS ANY PROGRESS I HAVE SEEN. MY MENTOR ALSO TALKS WITH ME ABOUT HOW THE PROCESS CAN BE IMPROVED WHICH IS HELPFUL BECAUSE THERE HAVE BEEN SOME KINKS ALONG THE WAY.

### ALEX

I GOT INVOLVED IN POETS ABOUT A YEAR AFTER THEY BEGAN. THEY TAUGHT ME SO MUCH WHILE I WAS IN SCHOOL. I'VE CONTINUED TO FOLLOW THEM ON SOCIAL MEDIA AND ATTEND THEIR EVENTS EVERY NOW AND AGAIN. EMMA AND KRISTIAN, THE CO-FOUNDERS, ALSO DO A GOOD JOB AT KEEPING IN TOUCH WITH ME AND OTHER ALUM. THEY RECENTLY ASKED IF I WOULD BE INTERESTED IN A PAID TEACHING ARTIST POSITION WORKING WITH MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL PARTICIPANTS. I QUICKLY ACCEPTED AND I'M EXCITED FOR THE POSITION TO TRANSITION TO FULLTIME.

### PATRICIA

I REALLY LOVE BEING A PART OF POETS, IT HAS CHANGED MY LIFE SO MUCH! IT HAS TAUGHT ME LEADERSHIP SKILLS, PLANNING AND ORGANIZING, TEAM WORK AND SO MUCH MORE. I DECIDED TO ASK EMMA, ONE OF THE FOUNDERS, WHAT SHE THINKS ABOUT SOME OF US HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS WORKING AT THE MIDDLE SCHOOL TO FACILITATE GROUPS WITH THE YOUNGER KIDS. SHE THOUGHT IT WAS A GREAT IDEA! WE ARE SPENDING THE SUMMER TRAINING TO BECOME FACILITATORS IN MIDDLE SCHOOLS. I LOVE THAT WE HAVE THE OPPORTUNITY TO GIVE BACK.

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### MARGARET

THERE'S A NEW GROUP AT SCHOOL CALLED POETS AND THEY INVITED A BUNCH OF US 8TH GRADERS TO VISIT THE HIGH SCHOOL ON A FIELD TRIP! WHEN WE ARRIVED WE GOT TO HANG OUT IN THEIR CLASSROOM AND LEARN ABOUT WHAT THEY DO. WE ALSO TOOK PICTURES WITH SOME OF THEIR HIGH SCHOOL STUDENTS. I'M KIND OF BUMMED THEY DIDN'T ASK IF WE HAD ANY QUESTIONS, BECAUSE I HAD LOTS. BUT IT WAS A REALLY FUN TIME!

### COURTNEY

IM A FOUNDING MEMBER OF POETS AND I REALLY LOVE HOW IT HAS EVOLVED OVER TIME. WE STARTED OFF AS A SMALL GROUP MEETING AFTER SCHOOL AND SLOWLY GREW TO BE A COMPETITIVE POETRY PROGRAM IN ALL OF OUR HIGHSCHOOLS. NOW WE HAVE A TWO YEAR LEADERSHIP ELECTIVE TRACK WHERE WE PLAN SCHOLARSHIP FUNDRAISERS, AN ANNUAL TEEN SUMMIT, LEAD ELEMENTARY POETRY WORKSHOPS, AND HAVE PAID INTERNSHIPS WITH COMMUNITY PARTNERS. THIS HAS BEEN ONE OF THE ONLY PROGRAMS IN MY COMMUNITY AND SCHOOL THAT YOUTH ARE INVOLVED IN EVERY PIECE OF THE DEVELOPMENT.