



The Just Ask Them! Project

How Student Voice Can Transform Your School

*Formerly known as **Stories from the Playground***

Rebecca Coda & Rick Jetter



Just Ask Them!

Agenda:

Part 1: Why Student Voice Matters

Part 2: Student Voice in Action

Part 3: Now What?



Just Ask Them!

Agenda:

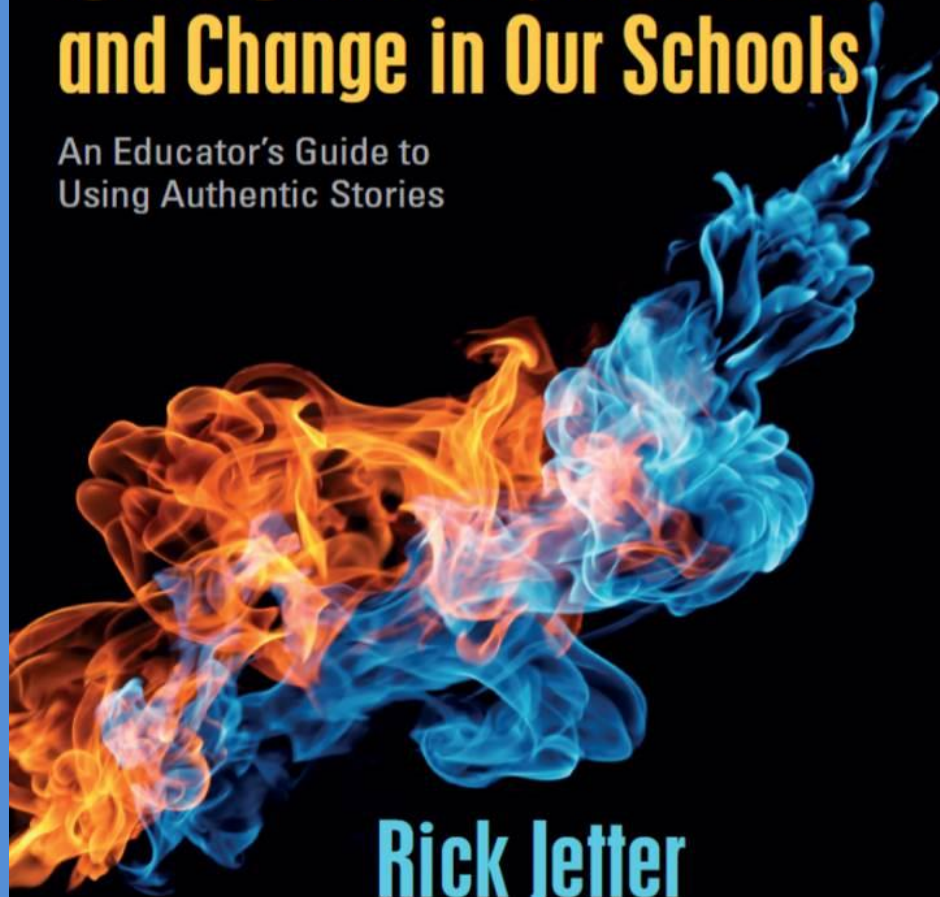
Part 1: Why Student Voice Matters



Just Ask Them!

Igniting Wonder, Reflection, and Change in Our Schools

An Educator's Guide to
Using Authentic Stories



Rick Jetter

An **Eye On Education** Book





Just Ask Them!

Ashlyn Burgess





Just Ask Them!

Release Your Comfort Zones





Just Ask Them!

Isaiah Sterling
#weleadby

**WE MUST LISTEN TO THE
"HEART OF EDUCATION".
THERE IS A BLOOD CLOT
AND IT'S
STUDENT VOICE!
-ISAIAH STERLING**

A photograph of a red felt heart with a black stethoscope resting on it. The heart is set against a white background. Handwritten in black marker on the heart is the text: "WE MUST LISTEN TO THE 'HEART OF EDUCATION'. THERE IS A BLOOD CLOT AND IT'S STUDENT VOICE! -ISAIAH STERLING".



Just Ask Them!

Breaking the 8 Comfort Zones



1. Football Fumbles
2. Magnifying Glasses & Decoder Rings
3. Speed Limits
4. Walking
5. Lenses
6. Lottery Tickets
7. Megaphones
8. Dares

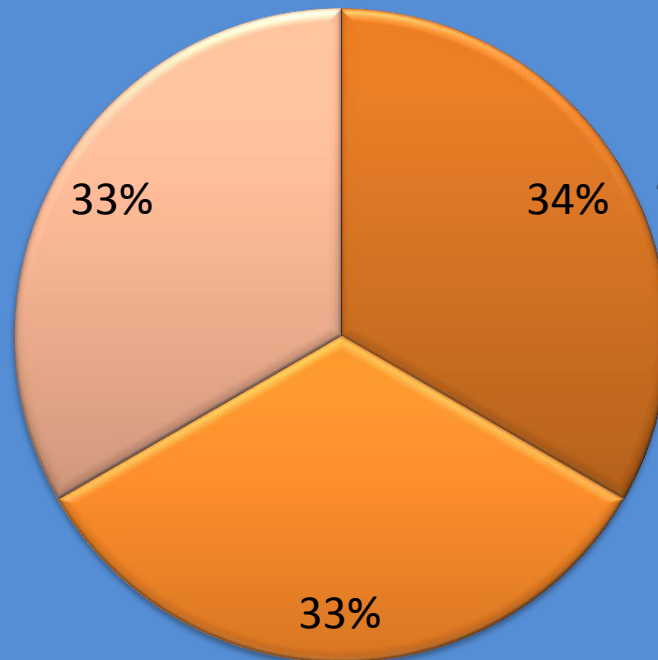


Typical Types of School Data

School Data

■ Perception ■ Achievement ■ Demographic

How can
voice drive
results?





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**Voice Mufflers &
Voice Activators**

A large black rectangular graphic containing white text and illustrations. The word "MUFFLER" is at the top in a bold, blocky font. Below it, "CITY" is written in a similar font, with a stylized white muffler illustration integrated into the letter "C". To the right of "CITY" is a detailed white illustration of a car wheel. At the bottom of the graphic, the text "AUTO REPAIR & BRAKES" is written in a bold, serif font.

**MUFFLER
CITY
AUTO REPAIR & BRAKES**


Just Ask Them!

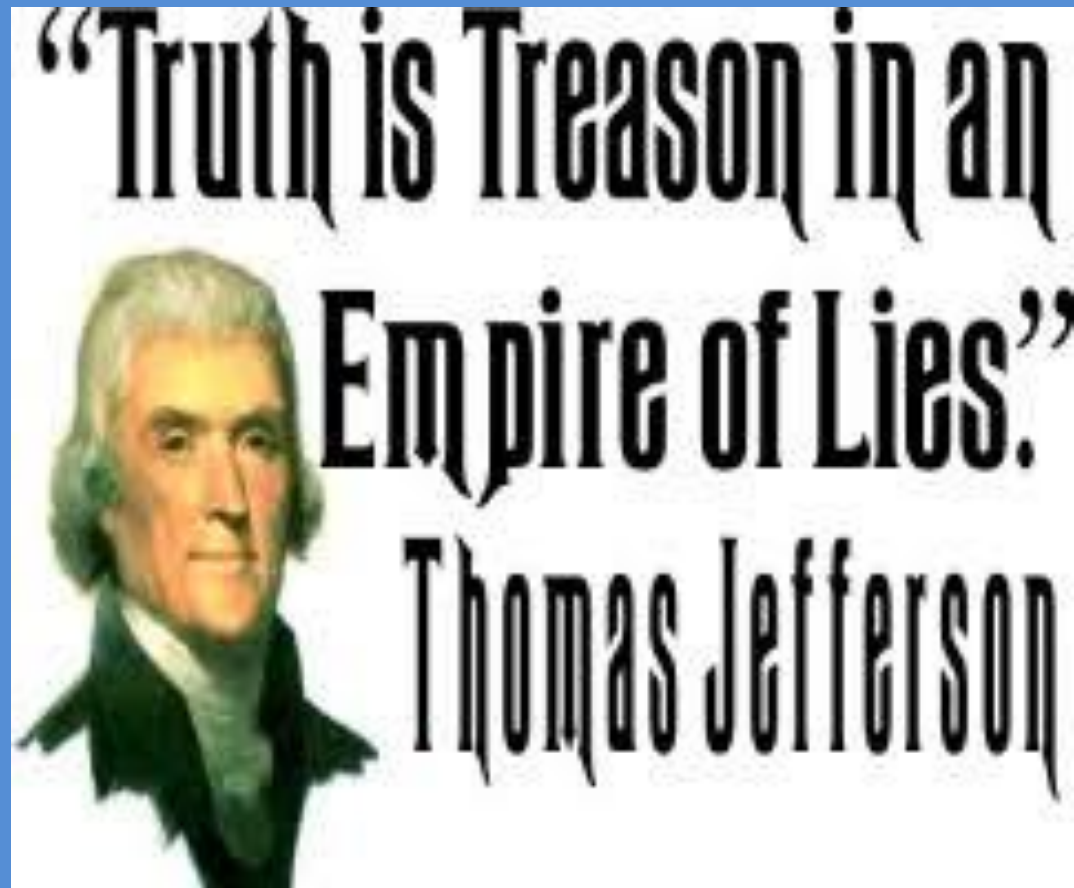
The Importance of "Turf"





Just Ask Them!

The Concept of “Healthy Treason”





Just Ask Them!

Agenda:

Part 2: Student Voice in Action

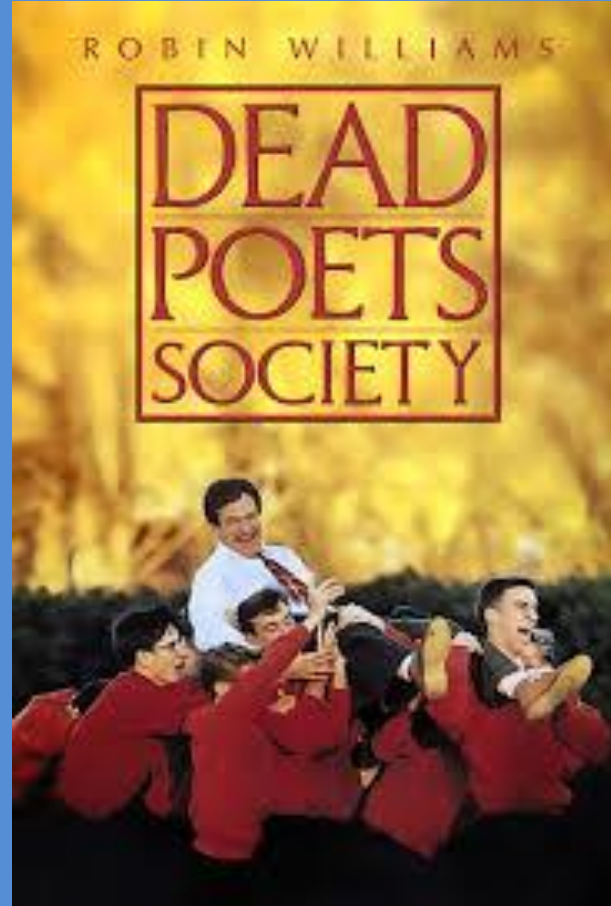


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Why “Narrativize” Stories?



**Historicizing Student
Voice = Poetry,
Narrative, Text.**





Just Ask Them!

Relationships

My father died a couple of weeks ago. I've been going to this school since sixth grade. I never met my counselor until two weeks ago. She wanted to check in with me because my dad died and my mom called to see if I could talk to someone. I don't want to talk to a stranger. I mean no disrespect to my counselor, but I don't know anything about her. Sure, I know what she looks like because I've been here for so long, but not even a hello. Not sure if she would know my name if I walked by her. And, if my mom didn't call, she would never know that my dad died anyway. I'm not trying to be rude or anything, but why does something big have to happen in my life for my counselor to chat with me?

--Ronny Lukavich, Grade 8



Just Ask Them!

Instruction

I like male characters. They are real. They are exciting. They bring suspense to the books we have to read. Without these books, I would be kinda bored with the same old stereotypical female main character in the novels that my teachers think that I want to read. The fact is: I only want to read about male characters. More action. More stuff going on and not girly stuff, either. I just like the topics and characters better. They are so funny. I even remember reading Galaxy Zack books instead of Amelia Bedelia when I was in 2nd grade.

--Andrea, Grade 5



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Programming

Megaphone Reflection: Can you get feedback from students about all of your assemblies, program activities, and fundraising at your school? What works? What doesn't work? What is cool? What is dreaded? What doesn't seem genuine? What they like?



Kids will Push Us!





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Status Quo

“What is interesting about rules is that for every rule that we create, there is always a really good reason to break it.”

--Coda and Jetter



Just Ask Them!

“If I get suspended from something I did wrong at the prom, why am I not allowed to attend graduation? Why . . . because graduation takes place within the 5 day suspension that I received so I’m not allowed to be on school property or attend school events, according to the discipline policy?” --Dana Thompson, Grade 12



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Diversity & Individuality

“My position is that I would like to have access to the nurse’s office lavatory where there is one toilet inside a locked door that can be used by male, female, or any LGBTQ student.”

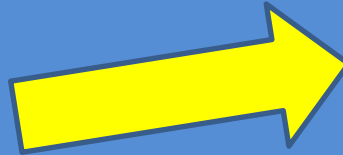
--Stewart Niles, Grade 11



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Motivation for the [Adults] in Our Kids' Lives

Remember
Mr. Comfort
Zone?



1. What are some things that you like that I do in class?
2. What do you like about me as a teacher and what don't you like about me as a teacher or wish that I did differently?



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Agenda:

Part 3: Now What?



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Establish a Reciprocal Relationship of Voice and Storytelling



Marc Mero





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“Student voice can do wonders for our own perceptions and even change the way we think things should look.”

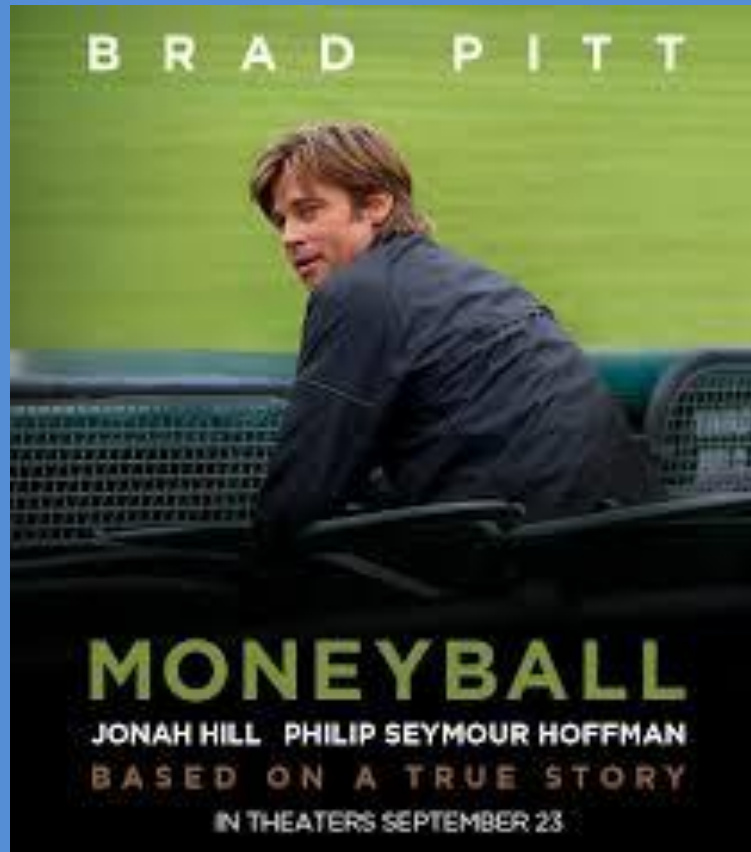
--Coda & Jetter





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What is [Good] Data?



Breaking Biases





Join the Just Ask Them! Project



#jaskthem