Letting Youth Be Heard:
The Student Voice Movement in Schools and Libraries

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What is student voice?
My history in student voice

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BE THE VOICE OF YOUR EDUCATION.
iowasli.org
IOWA STUDENT LEARNING INSTITUTE
IowaSLI Today
Initial Findings
1. Young people who lead student voice organizations are driven and goal-oriented individuals.
2. Interpersonal relationships between organization leaders are vital for success.
3. Student voice leaders are politically minded yet keep their organizations apolitical.
4. The work of leaders is authentic and imperative for their organizations.
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ALA’s Core Values of Librarianship

1. Access
2. Confidentiality/Privacy
3. Democracy
4. Diversity
5. Educational and Lifelong Learning
6. Intellectual Freedom
7. The Public Good
8. Professionalism
9. Service
10. Social Responsibility

http://www.ala.org/advocacy/intfreedom/corevalues
What can a mild-mannered librarian do?

Protect intellectual freedom for all patrons, no matter their age.
Inform young people about student voice events, or better yet, bring them!

IowaSLI RISE
Saturday, November 9, 2019
9:30 a.m. - 4 p.m.
Waukee Innovation and Learning Center
Waukee, Iowa
The Student Voice Rally
Spring 2020
Des Moines, Iowa
Encourage young people to join existing organizations.
UNLEASHING YOUR POWER OF VOICE 101
If these things seem too big, ask yourself, “What can I do?”

Can you ask young people what new books they’d like to see in the library? What games they want in the library’s Teen Room? What equipment to buy for the makerspace?
“Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed, citizens can change the world. Indeed, it is the only thing that ever has.”

- Margaret Mead
Questions?
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