

Social Justice Programming for Tuxedo UFSD's Summer Session

Teen Think Tank Project

Mission

Give teens a voice in the world they will inherit.

Vision

Address the systemic issues that hinder progress in our society by providing teens with the skills they will need to become agents of change.

Values

Empower students to think critically, analyze information and lend their voice to social justice initiatives by connecting them to thought leaders, fact-based research, and college-level discourse.

Tuxedo UFSD's Summer Session

The Teen Think Tank Project is a socially conscious leadership program that fosters tomorrow's change agents by providing teens with the critical thinking, research, and problem-solving skills that empower them to tackle real-life social justice issues through fact-based discussion, academic research, and policy framework creation.

Methodology: Provide students with access to lessons, materials, instructors, and experts within a safe, cooperative learning environment that a) allows them to develop more effective communication, problem-solving and analytical skills, while b) highlighting diversity and belonging through guided academic exercises.

Tuxedo UFSD's Summer Session

Scope: Prepare students to actively engage in and lead a diverse, multicultural society by delivering twenty-four (24) learning modules, each lasting 90-minutes. Over the course of six (6) weeks, with instruction Monday - Thursday, students will be guided through:

1. Four (4) essential learning modules that provide the foundation for collaboration and inclusive engagement:
 - a. Leadership
 - b. Professional communication
 - c. Research
 - d. Decision-making
2. Twelve (12) subject-specific modules that examine literature, scholarly work, and/or presentations addressing multiple social justice issues and facilitate the creation of a policy framework that addresses the issue in the form of a group white paper, podcast or digital short.

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Upon completion of the program, in addition to advanced knowledge of societal issues confronting their generation, students will gain the following:

- A **certificate of completion** to include with college and job applications. The uniqueness of our program allows participants to stand out on college applications.
- **Publishing credentials** to strengthen academic resumes. Students' research is published on online platforms and available to be included with college applications.
- Highly sought after **academic & professional development skills**. Harvard's #1 criteria for admission is "growth & potential", an approach that's shared by many other universities. Our program, based upon National Honor Society standards for high academic performance, is created with the specific purpose of allowing students to identify AND activate their potential...both as students and members of society.

Student Experiences

Learn from the experience, research and policy frameworks produced by the 2021 Winter Research Cohort - Sports & Social Protest.

[Research and Policy Recommendations](#)

[2021 Winter Research Cohort Policy Paper](#): “Supporting Social Change in Sports: Policies to Address Social Injustice Issues in the Sports Industry that Hinder the Voices of Athletes Trying to Achieve Social Change”



Student Experiences

As an organization focused on empowering teens looking to make a difference in the world, we measure our success by our ability to provide students with opportunities and experiences they may not be able to get in their traditional learning environments:

An Administrator's Perspective:

"As a high school administrator, I am always looking for new opportunities to challenge my students, especially my strongest and most creative thinkers. The Teen Think Tank has been such a beneficial addition to the lives of these students. Even in these difficult times, I have seen the Think Tank students at my school grow and thrive, thanks to the program, its staff and their fellow researchers." - Domenic Mingacci, Jr., Assistant Principal for Student Affairs, Archbishop Wood High School

Students' Perspectives:

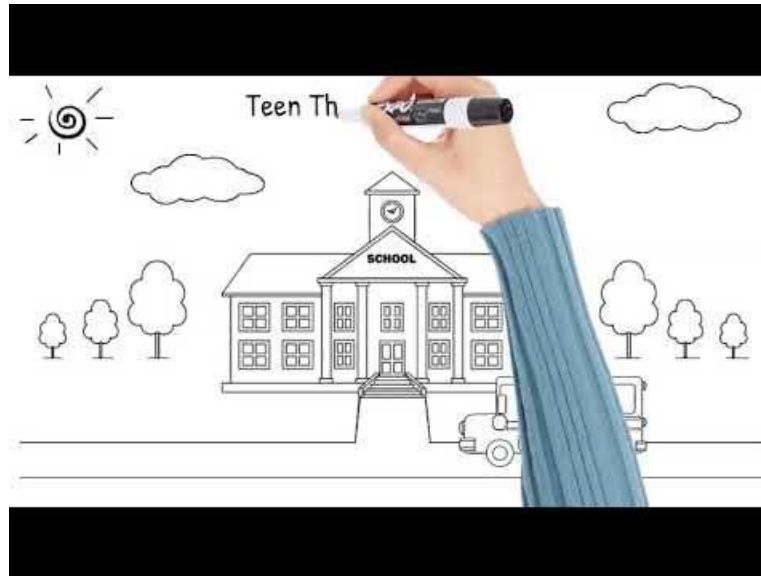
"The uniqueness hit me. The Teen Think Tank wasn't just another preparation course, but it was more like the real thing. With the wonderful opportunities to meet with knowledgeable people and the effort to move away from a student-teacher situation; the program felt real, with a real impact on society." - Rohan R., High School Honors Student, Class of 2023

"I found my experience in the Teen Think Tank invaluable! The access to professionals in their field here is unlike any other I have ever had, and the resources available exceeded expectations. The Teen Think Tank has given me an opportunity to speak out and use my voice to become an agent of change in a world that could use more voices." - Jared C. High School Honors Student, Class of 2022

Here's the Problem Podcast



In order to facilitate the goals of the Teen Think Tank Project and engage both our students and our listeners in thought-provoking conversations, we've created Here's the Problem podcast. Each week, thought leaders and experts join host and co-founder of Teen Think Tank Project, Kelly Nagle, to explore a specific problem facing our society. We rely on fact-based information, listen to understand and challenge our own ingrained perspectives; because at Here's the Problem we believe that this is the only way to chart a course towards cooperation, empathy and ultimately effective change.



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