

UNIVERSITY of **HOUSTON** | EDUCATION

2015 Action Alliance

School Leaders: Strong Minds Creating a Vision

**January 22, 2015
9:00am - 1:00pm
Hilton, University of Houston**

School Leaders: Strong Minds Creating a Vision

“Strong Minds Discuss Ideas...”

Average minds discuss events...

Weak minds discuss people ...”

Socrates

“Strong minds discuss ideas
Average minds discuss events
Weak minds discuss people”

Socrates

Why Are Strong Minds Needed?

- Daniel Yankelovich – *Magic of Dialogue*
 - American society generally makes acceptable decisions
 - However, American society is woefully ill-informed
 - Public judgment is based on values and feelings, not knowledge and facts
 - Decisions are the result of protracted public dialogue
 - Education is a profession that is all about knowledge and facts

What will strong minds and a focus on ideas accomplish?

- It will stop the practice of largely talking only to yourself and your supporters
- It will encourage and support confronting critics rather than simply reacting
- It will promote participation in the public dialogue and avoid waiting to be invited
- It will incite relevance and shun absence

How To Achieve a Strong Mind

- ***“a talent for speaking differently, rather than for arguing well,
is the chief instrument of cultural change... it is the vocabulary itself which must be addressed ... The method is to redescribe ... things in new ways, until you have created a pattern of linguistic behavior which will tempt the rising generation to adopt it”***

Richard Rorty

How To Achieve a Strong Mind

Truth is in the Bias of the Beholder-Bias Blurs Judgment

Strength to Overcome Bias means you must practice:

1. Leading with values
2. Driving your points home with fewer rather than greater examples
3. Making your information easy to process
4. Making alternative viewpoints fewer and more easily to come to mind
5. Leaving false information alone

Flu Vaccine

Facts & Myths



Department of Health
and Human Services
Centers for Disease Control
and Prevention

"People can die from the flu."

TRUE

Influenza (flu) is a highly infectious disease of the lungs, and it can lead to pneumonia. Each year about 114,000 people in the U.S. are hospitalized and about 36,000 people die because of the flu. Most who die are 65 years and older. But small children less than 2 years old are as likely as those over 65 to have to go to the hospital because of the flu.

"Even if I get flu vaccine, I can still get a mild case of the flu."

TRUE

The vaccine usually protects most people from the flu. Sometimes a person who receives flu vaccine can get the flu but will be far less sick than without the vaccine. Flu vaccine will not protect you from other viruses that sometimes feel like the flu.

"The side effects are worse than the flu."

FALSE

The worst side effect you're likely to get with injectable vaccine is a sore arm. The nasal mist flu vaccine might cause nasal congestion, runny nose, sore throat and cough. The risk of a rare allergic reaction is far less than the risk of severe complications from influenza.

"Not everyone can take flu vaccine."

TRUE

You might not be able to get this protection if you are allergic to eggs (used in making the vaccine), are very ill with a high fever, or have had a severe reaction to the flu vaccine in the past.

"Only older people need flu vaccine."

FALSE

Adults and children with conditions like asthma, diabetes, heart disease, and kidney disease need to get flu vaccine. People who are active and healthy can benefit from the protection the flu vaccine offers.

"You must get a flu vaccine before December."

FALSE

Flu vaccine can be given before or during the flu season. While the best time to get flu vaccine is October or November, getting immunized in December or later can still protect you against the flu.



For more information, ask your health care provider or call the CDC IMMUNIZATION HOTLINE
English **800-232-2522** Español **800-232-0233** Website **www.cdc.gov/nip/flu**

How To Achieve a Strong Mind

Strength to Overcome Bias means you must practice:

6. Giving just the facts

7. Avoiding lending credibility to myths

8. Talking about solutions and averting creating the crisis



Vision

Beyond
Seeing

Don Komarechka
Don Komarechka

How To Achieve a Strong Mind

Strength to Overcome Bias means you must practice:

6. Giving just the facts

7. Avoiding lending credibility to myths

8. Talking about solutions and averting creating the crisis

9. Telling thematic stories

10. Seeing beyond what is in front of you

Metaphors trump facts

Alzheimer's disease is a progressive disease that destroys memory and other important mental functions. (*Mayo Clinic*)

OR

Alzheimer's disease is like a cat burglar. It slips into a person's life without making a sound, and soon treasured possessions start disappearing: memory, personality and independence. (*Chris Woolston, CONSUMER HEALTH INTERACTIVE*)

Which is better?

Why Strong Minded School Leaders?

- Few Lead – Many Follow
- You have a clear understanding of real issues
- You can define and frame challenges
- You identify and marshal resources
- You make changes that are sustainable
- You recognize those critical moments that draw on your experience
- You avoid being consumed by the discourse of powerlessness
- You have discerned how to incubate new ideas
- You have mastered the skill of circulating testimony in public spheres
- You know how to fashion actionable items

Strong Leaders:

- Spend more time discussing ideas than they discuss events or people
- Speak differently not argue better
 - Lead with values – Talk about Solutions
- State Facts Clearly
- See What is Beyond in Front of Them
- Draw on Their Experience with Confidence
- Avoid the Discourse of Powerlessness
- Are Courageous in Asking the Questions

Be a Daydreamer and Boldly Focus on Ideas

“All men dream: but not equally. Those who dream by night in the dusty recesses of their minds wake in the day to find that it was vanity: but the dreamers of the day are dangerous men, for they may act their dreams with open eyes, to make it possible.”

- T.E. Lawrence

Thank you for the time you gave me today and for
the time you give our children every day

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