

Leadership Is... Mobilization



mo·bi·li·za·tion

/mōbələ'zāSHən, mōbə'lī'zāSHən/

The action of making something movable or capable of movement.

*Example: In order to start a new climate change initiative at my school that involves changing my school's recycling policy, I will need to be sure to successfully **mobilize** my peers who believe in my vision to help to make this change happen at our school.*

Reflection Questions:

Take a moment to think about your journey as a young leader.

1. Was there ever a time you had to mobilize others to get behind a cause you felt strongly about?
 2. What is one way you may have mobilized others to believe in a common vision or take action around a particular cause?
 3. What was the result or impact of this mobilization?

Leadership and Mobilization: Work in Progress:

Now that you've had a moment to reflect—lets learn how to mobilize! The following three steps are a good starting place in guiding you to reflect on how you can use your leadership skills to successfully mobilize your peers and community members.

Step 1: Identify your issue or topic. (What are you mobilizing around?)

Example: Perhaps you feel strongly about recycling, and changing school policy around the way your school recycles various goods.

1. As a successful leader, you'll be making active decisions that influence others. These may be things that influence others to think differently, act differently, or support causes that can lead to positive and meaningful change.

1A. Name one issue or topic that you feel strongly about

Step 2: Identify the community or peers whom you believe may also feel strongly about the issue or topic. Mobilization requires bringing this group of people with shared beliefs together to achieve your goal. (Who is ready and in your corner to mobilize?)

Example: Perhaps you feel strongly about recycling, and changing school policy around the way your school recycles various goods.

2. As a successful leader, you'll need to be a connector of people. Who will you mobilize around your topic or issue?
Why do you feel this is the right group to mobilize?

Step 3: Develop an action plan and a timeline with your community of peers.

Example: My school reviews its recycling policy every year, so it is important that my peers begin mobilizing now because we only have one year to make the case to change the recycling policy.

3. As a leader, and in order to successfully lead and mobilize others in this effort, you'll need to have a plan of action.
What would be the first two items of your action plan based on the topic you chose (Step 1)?

Additional Post-Flash Survey

Now that you know the first three steps of mobilizing, think briefly about your own characteristics as a leader in your community. Please respond to the following statements:

Strongly Disagree / Disagree / Not Sure / Agree / Strongly Agree

- a. I have the ability to create long-lasting change in my community.
 - b. I have the understanding and knowledge it takes to mobilize my peers around an important issue.
 - c. I recommend mobilizing around issues that need to be addressed based on the needs of those in my community.
 - d. I actively reflect on ways to best engage with my peers.

1. What actions have you taken as a leader to understand the needs and perspectives of those whom you are working with and for?
 2. As a leader, it's important to understand the power of your voice within your school and community. Describe a time when you yourself may have used your voice to mobilize around an issue. Did this have an impact on others? Who?
 3. Was the impact what you anticipated? If so, Why? If not, how could you have better mobilized to ensure you made the greatest impact in your community, school, etc.?