

STEP FORWARD

A YOUTH LEADERSHIP DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

PROGRAM OUTLINE

Duration:

The program involves the participants meeting eight times in school hours (perhaps as a block of literacy according to VELS advice), or after school, with each session preferably lasting two hours – or at the very least one and a half hours. Alternatively, a full day abridged program can be arranged.

In the eighth session, we all plan together the type of presentation evening (the ninth session) that the students think would be best for them to celebrate their progress and achievements in public.

The first session is a 'get to know you' time incorporating speaking and ice-breaker activities and organising group meeting officers, so that much of each subsequent session/meeting is actually conducted by the participants where possible.

In Session 2 of the full Speaking program, the actual prepared speeches are commenced and delivered to the group.

In the Leadership and Speaking program, in which leadership qualities feature as much as the speaking components, some ice-breaker speeches can be conducted at the first session.

Over the duration of the program it is envisaged that each participant will have:

- ✓ Delivered two or three 'formal' speeches, of two to four minutes duration, to the whole group, dependent on the size of the group;
- ✓ Practice at preparing and delivering short speeches related to session topics;
- ✓ The opportunity to speak impromptu through speaking "Off the Cuff" many times over the 8 weeks;
- ✓ Practice at delivering immediate feedback to fellow participants after they have spoken;
- ✓ Much practice at discovering the principles of good listening, including experience in developing relevant questions based on speakers' speech content;
- ✓ Experience concerning the basic conduct and important procedures of a meeting;
- ✓ Participated in discussions on leadership;
- ✓ Completed exercises from the workbook that increase self-awareness;
- ✓ Used a mind map approach to speech formatting; and
- ✓ Developed a better understanding of speaking to time.

The program can be weighted fifty-fifty towards speaking and leadership for best benefit, and can involve the coaching approach for self-development with customised issues exploration, or can be fully weighted toward speaking and meeting skills.