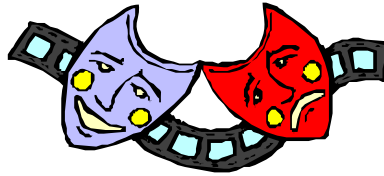


SLC Student Skits (Read This First)



We are excited to announce the production of a new classroom DVD to help you prepare students for student-led conferences. We heard from many of you that you would appreciate seeing students role-play a weak conference versus a strong conference. Thanks to the help of Central Middle School of Science and Channel 14, we have a 9-minute DVD for you. We hope you will find time to use this resource with your team. One copy of the DVD has been given to each core team. If you need additional copies, please contact Amy Goodman at 267-0221 or through email at goodman_amy@asdk12.org.

Before Showing to Your Classes:

Please preview the DVD content so you are comfortable with it. Several teachers e-mailed revision suggestions after showing it to their students. Please consider the following:

The weak conference is highly exaggerated. It shows the main character, Megan, explaining to her parents why she got so many F grades. Megan's portfolio is disorganized and she is unprepared. The conference runs too much like a show and tell. Megan does not articulate any insights about her learning, and her attitude is not serious. Unfortunately, some students who have seen this infer it is a weak conference because of her F grades. This was not the intent of this segment. Grades should never be the emphasis of a student-led conference.

In the strong conference, Megan has good grades and is struggling in Algebra with a C. Megan's portfolio is organized. She is very prepared and has rehearsed. She articulates insights about her learning, and her attitude is serious and focused. Some students have inferred from this that only students with good grades can have strong, student-led conferences. This was not the intent of this segment either. Grades should never be the emphasis of a student-led conference.

A student who is failing could very easily have a strong student-led conference. If a failing student is well prepared for a conference, he/she could work toward problem solving and setting goals for improvement. In contrast, a good student with average/high grades can have a weak conference. By not having an organized portfolio and being unprepared, a student with good grades can be less than effective communicating to parents during a student-led conference.

When a revision is made of this DVD, the script will be written keeping the grades consistent in both the weak and the strong conference to avoid misunderstandings of the underlying concepts being demonstrated. In the meantime, please make sure you talk to your students about these discrepancies.