

This Week's Focus: Learning to Lead

We often take for granted that just because some of our students are good at journalism, they'll also be good leaders, but leadership is a learned skill. That's why it's important to take time to work with your student leaders to help them become more confident and develop their leadership style.

THE LESSON: LEADING YOUR LEADERS

There are lots of approaches to help your students become better leaders. One simple approach I like to use is to facilitate weekly conversations with my managers that revolve around specific scenarios.

I can't take credit for this idea. When Aaron Manfull, MJE, from Francis Howell North High School in St. Charles, Missouri, was named the Dow Jones News Fund National Journalism Teacher of the Year, he launched a website titled [The Next 26](#). Within the site, he provides [some great leadership tips](#) (26 of them, to be exact) that I share with my leaders in smaller, bite-sized chunks. As Manfull says on the site, "We plan things out, get our staffs set, name our editors, and then we expect them to be the leaders we know they can be. The problem is, we don't often give the editors the necessary training it takes to be an effective leader."

How you choose to share those tips is up to you — one per day for 26 days, weekly in five- or six-item chunks, etc. — but the idea is to open that line of dialogue with your student leaders so they can really be more mindful of how to lead. At the end of the process, I like to create a working Google Doc for my editors to use to add more tips throughout the year as they see fit.

FIND IT AT JEA.ORG:

Training leaders how to be leaders

Description

Leaders must carve out time to nurture their roles beyond skills know-how and editing. They'll create and conduct their own workshop for leadership training. This can be done in a retreat setting, at the school as an informal workshop or at a location of the group's choosing. The goal is for leaders to understand how to motivate others and earn respect from the group.

Objectives

- Leaders will reflect on strengths and weaknesses from previous leadership boards to understand what worked, what didn't and why, and consider how they should lead effectively.
- Students will generate a list of both successful and unsuccessful leadership qualities.

The link

The link to the full lesson is [HERE](#).

NOTE: This lesson is available free to **everyone** during the dates listed at the top of this page. If you're not a member yet, consider joining JEA today for access to all of the resources.



Team Builder

*Matthew Schott, CJE,
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THURSDAYS

On Thursdays, we play games or meditate. It's up to the editors in my class to decide which we need to do. If it's been a crazy week, we'll probably meditate — I use some stuff they've found on YouTube — and it surprisingly helps them and me. I started this during the pandemic and got some resources from our psychology teacher.

The games are just about anything. We've done some of your typical ice breakers, but we've also played stuff like [Heads Up 7 Up](#). They like [Mafia](#) or [Signs](#). Most of the games involve pretty few materials and instructions.



ADVISER ADVICE

You're not alone when you're starting out. It seems like that, but there are plenty of resources for you to turn to, and most of us are eager and happy to connect with you.

You've Got Style

*Suggestions from Cindy**

MAKING COMPOUND WORDS PLURAL

Use hyphens when you refer to any "in-law."
brother-in-law, mother-in-law

For plural, follow AP style for making compound words plural:

For those that involve separate words or words linked by a hyphen, make the most significant word plural:

- Significant word first: *adjutants general, attorneys general, daughters-in-law, postmasters general, presidents-elect, runners-up*
- Significant word in the middle: *assistant attorneys general, deputy chiefs of staff*
- Significant word last: *assistant attorneys, assistant corporation counsels, deputy sheriffs, major generals*

* Style pro Cindy Horchem, CJE, is a retired adviser and the current JEA business and projects coordinator