Self-Advocacy: Using Your Voice & Presence to Better Your Environment

Presented by Jazmyne Baylor
Introduction.

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Self-Advocacy.
Speaking or acting on our own behalf. Being conscious of our thoughts, feelings, and self. Taking accountability. Be unapologetic.

My definition of Self-Advocacy.
How to self-advocate

- Know yourself.
- Wellness.
- Speak highly.
- Be assertive.
- Professional development.
- Find a support system.

Question. How are you advocating for yourself?
How can self-advocacy better my environment?
A.C.T. Now!

- Ask
- Collaborate
- Trust
#ASK

- Never make assumptions.
- Research!
You must be willing to **work with** and **learn from** the community you are serving and your coworkers.
#TRUST

- Build trust through engagement.
- Practice active listening.
- Be receptive.
- Be supportive.
Implementing A.C.T.

Be an ally to your Community & Coworkers
1. Community.

Who are the people you serve? Get to know your community.

➔ **Collaborate & Advocate**
Collab with local individuals or organizations for library programming. Give them a platform

➔ **Survey**
Create surveys and ask your community to participate

➔ **Volunteer**
Volunteer your personal (or work) time in the community you serve
Be aware of local (national) news
Stay up-to-date on local, national, and international news that could be affecting the communities served.

Share platform
Use your platform to raise awareness and allow the communities voice to be heard.

Create and maintain a safe space
Be sure that your library is a safe space for ALL.

Resources & Services
Enlighten community of all resources and services that could benefit them.
Programming

- Adult Sensory Networking
- Workshops
- Panel discussion
- Wellness
- Group talk
- Classes/one-on-one

Question.
How are you advocating for the communities you serve?
2. Coworkers.

Who are your coworkers? Advocate for your coworkers by getting to know them.

➔ **Diversity**
Recognize, value, and embrace the uniqueness of your coworkers

➔ **Inclusion**
Include your coworkers by acknowledging the experience, skills, and perspectives they bring to the library

➔ **Correct your coworkers**
When in the wrong, correct your coworkers.
Advocating for your coworkers

Question.
How are you advocating for your coworkers?

- Committees
- Training
- Mentoring & Supporting
- Needs
- Actively listen
To be a self-advocate & ally...

- A.C.T
- Be receptive.
- Know yourself.
- Support.
Community organizer.

“Every moment is an organizing opportunity, every person is a potential activist, every minute is a chance to change the world.”

-Dolores Huerta
Questions or Comments?
Contact information

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