

Title: A is for Advocacy Author: K.E. Hones

A is for ADVOCACY School Library Networks: Influencing education policy and reform

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A is for Advocacy provides a framework for library media teachers to consider the local opportunities they have to influence educational policy and reform. Library media teachers can build on personal strengths find opportunities at hand and capitalize on connections. Four main ideas will be developed: the message they want to spread, the mode in which they want to work, the means by which they can influence others, and how to build momentum to carry through their work.

The variety of avenues to influence educational policy and reform includes local site-based reform, teacher action research, networking, and publication. Through an interactive dialogue, school library teachers will develop a framework for advancing their influence and advocacy work. Through a reflective dialogue on their current practice, participants can develop a vision for action and the means by which they can make pro-active decisions about how to move their advocacy forward.

Policy and Teacher Action Research

“...Implementation problems should be considered when policies are made. Better policies would result, we are told, if policy makers would think about whether their decisions could be implemented before they settle on a course of action.” Richard F. Elmore

“Each stage in the policy cycle offers opportunities for research to inform the process. Understanding which stage your research can inform will help you determine your target audience. Understanding which stage you want to influence will help you design applicable research.” Sheldon Gen, San Francisco State University

References

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Carnegie Foundation for the Advancement of Teaching
<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/index.asp>

Carnegie Perspectives online at
<http://www.carnegiefoundation.org/perspectives/>

NBPTS Certificate: Library Media
<http://www.nbpts.org/candidates/guide/whichcert/24EarlyChildYoungLibMedia2004.html>

Author Note:

K.E. Hones is a National Board Credentialed Library Media teacher and a support provider at Stanford and San Francisco School District for National Board candidate teachers. She has served on school site councils, advocating for and voting on decisions that impact quality teaching and learning. She is the co-chair of the San Francisco School Librarian Association facilitating professional development for district school librarians and working with union to establish school library job description, contract issues and evaluations. Currently a member of two textbook adoption committees 2006-07 (History/Social Science & Health), she also participated on standards committees, content master plans and developing exemplar lessons. She has created and delivered professional development for 20+ years, including for district, state, national & international audiences.

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