



**LEADERS IN EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY**

# **LEADers in Action**



# Taking Steps to Social Action



# If I Were In Charge of the World

Judith Viorst

If I were in charge of the world  
I'd cancel oatmeal,  
Monday mornings,  
Allergy shots, and also Sara Steinberg.

If I were in charge of the world  
There'd be brighter nights lights,  
Healthier hamsters, and  
Basketball baskets forty eight inches lower.

If I were in charge of the world  
You wouldn't have lonely.  
You wouldn't have clean.  
You wouldn't have bedtimes.  
Or "Don't punch your sister."  
You wouldn't even have sisters.

If I were in charge of the world  
A chocolate sundae with  
whipped cream and nuts  
would be a vegetable  
All 007 movies would be G,  
And a person who sometimes  
forgot to brush,  
And sometimes forgot to flush,  
Would still be allowed to be  
In charge of the world.



# If you were in charge of your school...

- What would you do?
- What concern would you address?
  - i.e. I would like \_\_\_\_\_ to stop.
  - I would like to prevent \_\_\_\_\_.
  - I think \_\_\_\_\_ should change.
  - I think \_\_\_\_\_ can be improved.
- Designate a scribe for your group. Scribe writes group's responses on poster paper.
- 5 minutes



# Step 1: Prioritize

- Which of these concerns would you address first?
- Pick top 3 and rank first, second and third.
- Scribe write down group's top priorities (first, second and third).
- 3 minutes



## Step 2: Brainstorm

- For your group's number one concern, think of ways to begin to address it and solve it.
- Scribe writes group's ideas on poster paper.
- Shoot for the moon! Throw in all ideas. Don't edit.
- 5 minutes



## Step 3: What is “doable?”

- Of all the ideas you have written, which ones are realistically doable at this time?
- What to consider:
  - Do you have to raise money?
  - How much time can you devote to planning and implementing?
  - Do you have the people power needed?
  - Do you need to team up with another group?
  - 5 minutes



## Step 4: Action Plan

- When you return to your school, create a detailed plan that includes actions and timeline.
  - What needs to be done?
  - Who is doing what task?
  - When do each task need to be accomplished?
  - Backwards map
  - Team effort - Select few can't do it all. Ensure every member has a job.



# Step 5: Implementation

- Work with your advisors to implement plan. Give them a task to do as well.
- Document your work (especially if vying for Jefferson Award)
  - Include steps taken, what went well/not so well
  - What can be added, omitted or improved in future
- Celebrate and promote group's accomplishments
- Thank everyone who helped you implement your plan
- Repeat process for addressing/solving second and third concerns you listed earlier
- **REFLECTION:** Discuss and take note of how you will share what you've learned here today with others in your group/team/school. (2 minutes)

