

Leadership Los Alamos Speech #2  
Get to Point on Youth Issues for Two to Three Minutes  
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12-14-18

NOTE: Use the Toastmasters Guidelines for this speech per Doris Prokop.

OPENING: Thank you (to introducer). I am very concerned. The point is there are persistent youth issues in our schools and this is a problem. While some very good things are being done by fine competent people, it is not having a strong enough effect. Clearly, the things being done are not working. Or, they are not being done right. What can we do differently to mitigate these issues?

BODY: Obviously, things are not good, if you listen to and believe current students as we did recently at the Teen Center. The issues are drug use including vaping (or smoking), assault (all assaults are bad), and bullying. These issues are spelled-out in the Freshman Academy student manual as unacceptable. And in some cases, severe disciplinary actions are also spelled-out. However, other cases, the punishments are vague. It appears that enforcement is weak. What can and should be done? The answer is courage in leadership, toughness in the stated disciplinary actions, and real, rigorous enforcement in every case. When the students and their parents see that the authorities are serious, the incidents of unacceptable behavior will take a downward trend or stop. Regarding blame...who's at fault? If parents won't support or don't care, there is no problem. There *is* a problem, and everyone needs to work together.

CONCLUSION: In conclusion, the proof of the problem is that the issues persist. Just ask the kids. As a check, I have asked more youth than the ones we met at the Teen Center. The stories are bad, and they corroborate. To summarize, there are persistent issues in Los Alamos schools. It won't be easy politically or enforcement-wise, but new and different actions need to be planned and accomplished by the School Board and Administration leaders with parental support.

Are you as concerned as I am?