



# 2017 Student Conference Pre-Conference Readings and Video



The Cleveland Heights-University Heights planning committee has prepared readings and materials for your team to review and discuss prior to arrival at the conference. These required readings are available for download from the conference website. While no formal written response is required, you might find notes helpful as the readings will relate to the work and action planning that will happen at the conference.

## 1. Don't Be An Activist

Fong Tran, TEDxUCDavis

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=HH-X85EdWNg>

TED is a nonprofit organization devoted to ideas worth spreading. It started out as a conference bringing together people from three worlds: technology, entertainment, and design. TED's mission is spreading ideas. "TEDx" is a program of local, self-organized events that bring people together to share a TED-like experience. This video is from a TEDx event at the University of California-Davis.

## 2. Let's stop the apathy in Kentucky and beyond: The connection between student and civic engagement

Zachariah Sippy, *The Hechinger Report*, June 20, 2017

<http://hechingerreport.org/student-voice-lets-stop-apaty-kentucky-beyond/>

The Hechinger Report is an on-line magazine that covers "inequality and innovation in education with in-depth journalism that uses research, data and stories from classrooms and campuses to show the public how education can be improved and why it matters." The following article is from their special report on high school reform.

## 3. Five Ways to Advocate for Justice in Education

Rusul Alrubail, Teaching Tolerance Blog

<http://www.tolerance.org/blog/five-ways-advocate-justice-education>

Teaching Tolerance is a project of the [Southern Poverty Law Center](#). Through free educational materials, a self-titled magazine, free curricular kits, and special programs,

Teaching Tolerance is dedicated to “reducing prejudice, improving intergroup relations and supporting equitable school experiences for our nation's children.”

#### **4. Reflective Questions**

You will answer these questions in a group at the conference. Please read them through. No written answers are required prior to the conference, but you may consider making some notes to bring with you to your group discussion time.

1. In 50 words or less--what are the barriers that are contributing to your school district's achievement/opportunity gaps?
2. In 40 words or less--how do you know these are true barriers? Your chaperones will bring data from your school district to discuss (suspension data, AP enrollment, etc.).
3. In 30 words or less--who is impacted by these barriers?
4. In 20 words or less--what can we do to eliminate these barriers?
5. In 10 words or less--how will we know we are making progress?
6. What is one goal you want your district to meet in addressing racial achievement and opportunity gaps in your schools?
7. List 3 to 5 action steps your team can take to meet that goal.
8. List how your goals and action steps connect with the data for your school district.
9. List 3 dates during the year that you would like for your district should check on how they're doing on completing the action steps you listed in #7.
10. List some community partners and supporters who can help your school district meet its goals.