

HOW TO HAVE A AWESOME GSA

Establishing Your Club's Purpose

- Decide if your GSA is a **support group, activism club, social group, or a combination.**
- **Mission statement:** What kind of GSA club are you going to be? Address the nature of your club and its goals in an official mission statement. Check out our sample mission statements to get started! To develop a vision and values statement with your mission statement, check out our Visions for Justice and Values for Justice workshops that you can do in your GSA!

Preparing for Meetings

- **Set the agenda:** make a list of issues/topics to discuss at each meeting.
- **Publicize** the meetings
 - Figure out the best ways to reach as many people as possible at school (e.g. daily announcements, flyers, social media)

Running a Good Meeting

- **Set ground rules:** To make sure the group members feel safe, establish ground rules.
- **Decision-making:** Figure out how your group will make decisions like majority vote or consensus.
- **Facilitator**
 - Designate someone to keep the group focused on the meeting agenda
 - For more on facilitation, see pg 13.
- **Notes**
 - Take minutes at each meeting for members who couldn't attend
 - Use Facebook groups, google docs or email to share notes. Figure out what works best for your club.



Creating an Action Plan

- Have a **brainstorming session**
 - Only think of projects ONCE at a brainstorming meeting
 - Set your ideas into a list of priorities and concentrate on the top three
- Set up **committees**
 - Make each project a committee and appoint a leader to organize the specific project
 - Committees help spread leadership
- Set **tentative dates**
 - Put deadlines, dates of meetings, or anything else into official school calendars
 - Follow a schedule and take your deadlines seriously
- **Subcommittee meetings**
 - Committees working on projects should meet separately from the regular GSA meeting and report back to the GSA. This ensures that GSA members not interested in the project still have a place in meetings, while allowing committees to get more specific work completed.