



How to create a women's empowerment club in any school

Why start a club?

- Students need safe spaces to speak about issues, including fairness, safety, equity, access and representation

Who would join?

- All students are invited to join.
 - Talk to students who may be interested
 - Get the word out!
 - Have students invite their friends
 - Hang fliers around school
 - Make announcements

Is this possible?

- Check your contract for more information
- Look at and follow the club chartering process for your district
- Do not reinvent the wheel. Determine if there are other clubs that could incorporate women's empowerment work
- Talk to your union and administrators
 - Make a clear plan
 - Bring your mission statement

What should it be called?

- Come up with a name (probably the hardest part!)
 - Involve all students regardless of gender or other identities

What should the club do?

- Mentoring
- Community outreach
- Invite guest speakers to provide new perspectives and life skills
- Build character and strengthen relationship and leadership skills
- Explore issues of female representation in curriculum, materials, courses, society
- Create a safe space for discussing issues pertaining to girls and women
 - Women's health
 - Women's safety
 - Body image
 - Pay equity
 - Women's rights
- Assign students to chart the course
- Have fun!

Where to start?

- Get inspired by the students. Take the lead from them!
- Come up with a mission statement or philosophy
- Know some of the statistics and inequalities women face
- Think of the strategies you want to teach students to navigate the world
- Just start! Figure things out as the club goes.

Ideas for guest speakers

Reach out to a variety of presenters. Most people asked will be honored to speak with students. Remember it's okay to get rejected!

- Small business owners
- Yoga instructors
- Martial Arts studios
- Not-For-Profit women's agencies
- Fellow educators
- Medical and emergency services professionals
- Local politicians
- Corporate women
- Current/former students
- Women in nontraditional fields
- Therapists or social workers
- College professors or career counselors
- BOCES instructors in nontraditional fields

Remember, no one has all the answers. Get started and see where it goes!

Resources

- nysut.org/women
- Network with other schools with similar clubs and interests
- Talk to colleagues, family, and friends. Their connections could be helpful.
- Start Where You Are: A Journal for Self-Exploration* by Merra Lee Patel
- The Affirmation Station: Daily Affirmations and Journal* by Tania Joy Antonio
- The Likeability Trap: How to Break Free and Succeed as You Are* by Alicia Menendez
- Community Outreach Ideas: dosomething.org
- Intersectionality Resource: educators4sc.org/topic-resources/teaching-about-intersectionality/
- Statistics on women: <https://aboveglassceilings.com/resources/statistics/>



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