Young Adult Book Club Proposal
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TO: Thomas Yancey  
Principal, Westerville North High School  
FROM: Caitlin Jacopin  
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SUBJECT: A proposal to start a young adult book club as an after school program

PURPOSE
I propose an after school program that will help work toward getting our students more interested in reading for pleasure. As an English teacher I often have to ‘pull teeth’ to get my students to read novels, even for an assignment. I would like to start a program that shows students that reading can be enjoyable and fun. In a society where most teens would rather watch reality TV or play video games, I feel a program of this nature would help students not only in school but also show them there are other beneficial ways to spend their time.

PROBLEM AND SOLUTION
With most students opting to use the internet and watch TV after school, they are not frequently exposed to the correct use of English. Below is a pie chart addressing how a person spends their daily leisure time on an average day. The graph shows the low average of time spent reading in relation to other activities.

![Pie Chart]

Leisure time on an average day

- Relaxing and thinking (17 minutes)
- Participating in sports, exercise, recreation (19 minutes)
- Socializing and communicating (38 minutes)
- Playing games using computer for leisure (29 minutes)
- Reading (18 minutes)
- Watching TV (2.7 hours)
- Other leisure activities (17 minutes)
- Total leisure and sports time = 5.0 hours

My solution for the lack of reading in our students is, as I stated above, to start a YA book club after school. This would be a place for students who are interested in spending time with others who also enjoy reading for pleasure. The club will also serve those who are interested in reading for pleasure but are unsure of what books to read or where to start.
There are many advantages for teens who read on a regular basis. It is a great escape for young adults and serves as an excellent alternative to other harmful activities. It increases a teen’s vocabulary and improves reading skill and literacy, which is helpful on exams and assignments. It is also a great way for teens to learn about the world around them and educate them in a fun way.

I surveyed the students in my homeroom class and received mostly positive feedback. Below is a graph with the information I gathered from my students.

Only 28% of students stated they would have absolutely no interest in a book club and 12% indicated they have no time after school due to other obligations. Of course the attendance would be unknown for sure until the book club is up and running but I am very confident it would be a popular after school club for students.

THE CLUB

The book club would take place at Westerville North High School, in my classroom, room 112. I will take over the responsibility of book club leader and supervisor. The club will meet once every two weeks, ensuring that each member has enough time to read the novel chosen for discussion. I will read each book before it is assigned to the group and compose a list of questions and ideas to discuss at the next meeting.

Each meeting will last for approximately one hour, but this is open for discussion or change. If the club receives a large amount of participants we can then move to having two different meeting days or two different meeting times.

I have already constructed a list of books that will be read throughout the year. The book list is below:

- The Hunger Games series (The Hunger Games, Catching Fire and Mockingjay) by Suzanne Collins
- Perks of Being a Wallflower by Stephan Chboksy
- The Faults in Our Stars by John Green
- Looking for Alaska by John Green
- Speak by Laurie Halse Anderson
- Six Months Later by Natalie Richards
- If I Stay by Gayle Forman
Where She Went by Gayle Forman
My Life Next Door by Huntley Fitzpatrick
Thirteen Reasons Why by Jay Asher

I have chosen books that I feel cover multiple genres. Some relate to current high school life and some are set in a dystopian society. The majority are fairly gender neutral and can be enjoyed by all young adult readers. I feel it is important to read about different teenage situations so the club members are exposed to many different reading experiences.

Some of these books contain material on mature subjects. At the first meeting I will include a list of all books along with a synopsis of each book on the list. Each student will need their parent(s) to sign off in order to be included in the club.

COST

After much research, I have found that the cost of starting this book club will be minimal for the school. From the generous contributions from businesses’ and families in our community I was able to obtain a total of $4,000.00 in donations.

Each book will cost $10.00 according to the Amazon website. There are a total of ten books making the cost $100.00 for each set. Amazon has agreed to give 20% off making each set $80.00.

With the donation amount received the school will be able to purchase every book on the club list for fifty students.

I am prepared to hold fund raisers throughout the school year if this amount does not cover the cost for all students wishing to participate.

A one-time fee of $10.00 will be asked of each student to cover the cost of snacks provided at each club meeting. I will take full responsibility of organizing each meeting and providing the snacks for the students.

CONCLUSION

Authorizing a young adult book club can give our students a safe and fun after school activity. It will not only educate them but will also entertain them as well. There are so many fantastic books out there and I would really love the chance to expose our students to these excellent YA authors. I will be more than happy to discuss any questions you may have concerning my proposal. Everything in my proposal is open to discussion or change and I am welcome to any suggestions you may have on this matter.

Thank you very much for taking the time to read my plan for a Westerville North book club and I look forward to hearing from you.
References


