

VOICES WITHOUT BORDERS

OVERVIEW

i *Voices From the Middle is a project started by Barbara Kraft in 2004 as a compilation of writings, art, and poetry from middle school students to showcase their unique perspectives as young boys and girls becoming adults. The scope and scale of the project has included 14 volumes of writings from the United States, as well as a volume from Isesaki, Japan. This iteration will be under Voices Without Borders as the new anthology series dedicated to voices from a global perspective. We have also expanded the age range to include students from the 5th grade up to 12th grade. We feel that the inclusion of a wider range of ages will allow the book to fully capture the unique and differing perspectives of students at different stages in their lives.*

Voices Without Borders is pleased to submit this proposal in introducing this student-driven project, which will showcase the many talents and perspectives of our multinational and multicultural youth.

The Objective

i *Voices Without Borders will be a standalone book created by students and published through our partner affiliates in the United States under the publisher Njuchi Press. Books will be sourced locally where applicable, and distributed through the publisher to areas of interest across the globe.*

- Students will have an outlet to participate in creative writing, photography, and artwork that will be integrated into the established curriculum at participating schools.
- Students will create, from start to finish, a complete book that will be published for public consumption.
- Students will receive a copy of their book and will be able use their experience to set themselves apart in the college application process.
- Books will be a source of pride for the school, students, teachers, and faculty - as well as anyone who has participated in its creation.

The Opportunity

i *Students who have submitted work that is included in the volumes of Voices Without Borders will have a tangible product to share with family, friends, and other students around the region.*

- As students and teachers participate in the process, our goal is to reach out to other schools around the world – to branch out in order to publish volumes with writings, photography, and art from other young people.
- Participating schools will be the forerunners of a series that has the potential to introduce young adults to content that is relevant and timely – and will be in a position to facilitate workshops and projects throughout the region.
- Teachers and faculty will have the opportunity to form curriculum around the project in a way that incorporates technology, language, and culture.
- Each book can be purchased and used internally through the library system, given out as gifts, or used as classroom sets for further instruction.

OUR PROPOSAL

i *Each participating organization will be responsible for the collection of different work from the student body, as well as establishing a committee to decide which works will be included in the final volume(s). Participating schools or organizations will be responsible for the costs associated with the printing and publication of the book, either through direct funding by participants - or by the school or institution.*

Voices Without Borders has the potential to impact the lives of the students, teachers, and faculty that participate in the creation of the book. It will be a centerpiece for any participating institution to establish a product that is completely student-driven and realized in-house through a collaborative effort (except printing and publication handled by Voices Without Borders affiliates locally or in the United States).

Execution Strategy

Our execution strategy will involve teacher and faculty instruction in the formulation of activities that will mesh with the current curriculum, and encourage students to submit their best work for consideration in the volumes to be published.

i *Voices Without Borders will fit seamlessly into existing instructional framework of entrepreneurship, collaboration, production, and engagement. The project will set the standard for student-driven work in the region as an example of what young men and women can accomplish when given the resources and opportunity to achieve at their highest potentials. Our goal is to produce a book with minimal interruption in the regular classwork or curriculum through participating schools or institutions.*

Technical/Project Approach

i *Voices Without Borders will coordinate with relevant departments to introduce material that will facilitate the development and execution of the book through learning modules, class activities, and after-school programs at the discretion of faculty, staff, and teachers.*

Resources

i *Each participating school or institution should already have the resources available to create the book (up to printing and publication), and our partnership with Voices From the Middle in the United States and Njuchi Press will aid in the printing and distribution (in the US) of the volumes moving forward.*

Project Deliverables

Deliverable	Description
Voices Without Borders	A compilation of writings, art, and photography from a global youth perspectives.

Timeline for Execution

i The timeline will tentatively be between four to six months depending on factors such as student involvement, technical issues, and contingencies that may delay the production of the final draft.

Description	Start Date	End Date	Duration
TBD=To Be Discussed TBA=To Be Announced			
Introduction of Project to Students and Staff	TBD	N/A	
Submitted student work/portfolios	February 2020	March 2020	one or two months
Committee review and selection	March 2020	March 2020	one month
Final selection and compilation of work	March 2020	March 2020	one month
Digitization and pagination	April 2020	April 2020	depending on source material
Sending of completed work for printing	April 2020	May 2020	N/A
Receipt of printed books	TBA		N/A
Project End		TBA	

EXPECTED RESULTS

i Participating schools and students will have a product that is completely student-driven and an example to showcase in portfolios, resumes, and college applications.

School Benefits

- Schools will have the opportunity to present a printed book to the public that will showcase writings from international students living in the region.
- Schools will set the standard for project-based learning – and expand their projects to schools in the region.

- Schools will gain prestige and offer unique opportunities that will engage the public and potential parents to consider them as a school for their children in. The marketing potential is amazing considering the unique and interactive nature of the Voices Without Borders project.

Student Benefits

- Students will have the opportunity to complete a substantial project from start to finish and leave their school or institution as published authors and/or artists.
- Students will set themselves apart amongst their peers, and gain skills that will empower them in their futures.
- Students will be inspired to create on their own, furthering their school's goal of inspiring leadership, engagement, and entrepreneurship.

CONCLUSION



Voices Without Borders will be a concrete example of student leadership and engagement in a project that will benefit themselves, their school, and the region as a whole.

The potential for this book series to become a valuable asset regionally and internationally is immeasurable. With a partnership in the United States, and guidance from established and committed coordinators from the US and participating countries, Voices Without Borders will be a bright example of student-driven work and collaboration. With the potential to be implemented in other countries around the region and the world, Voices Without Borders will allow schools to spearhead a project that will establish a lasting legacy for all those involved.

Voices Without Borders works within the frameworks of the 21st century classroom experience, combining entrepreneurialism, technology and art integration, and project-based learning modules into a complete experience for participating students and teachers in classrooms around the world.