

# Amplifying Student Voice Through Project Soapbox



***Mikva  
Challenge***

**Democracy  
is a verb.®**

Jill Bass  
Chief Education Officer

Mia Salamone  
National Program Manager



**What is Mikva  
Challenge?**





**Develop youth to be  
empowered, informed  
and active citizens who  
will promote a just and  
equitable society**



**Youth are not  
apathetic.**

**They are uninvited.**







# Teen Girls Organized A 10,000-Person Black Lives Matter Protest In Nashville

Six teenagers pulled off the region's largest protest against racism and police brutality in recent memory, local news reported.



By Elyse Wanshel

## Hear from the 16-year-old who helped lead peaceful protest against police brutality in Detroit

Stefan Perez says he cares about the message behind the protests



## Two marches, led by Chicago students and alumni, call for school policing changes

By Yana Kunichoff | Jun 4, 2020, 10:25pm CDT

## 17-year-old Mission District teen leads protest of thousands in San Francisco

Amy Graff

June 3, 2020 | Updated: June 3, 2020 9:51 p.m.



The first step  
to being an  
active and  
engaged  
citizens is to  
stand up and  
speak out on  
an issue that  
you care  
about



# Project Soapbox



**If you could  
change one  
thing in your  
community  
what would  
it be?**





# Creating a Democratic Classroom





- 
- **Build Community and Empathy**
  - **Engage in Courageous Conversations**
  - **Action Research and Critical Analysis**

# Norms

- be present
- ask clarifying questions
- keep mic muted (video on if possible)
- use chat to participate and ask questions
- stay curious



# Project Soapbox

# Structuring a Speech

**Define the Issue:** Today I am talking to you about... The reason this is such a big issue is...

**Describe a vision:** Imagine a world where...

**Explain the Assets:** Tools we have to use to work on this issue are...

**Call to Action:** I need you to...

# What Makes a Good Speech?

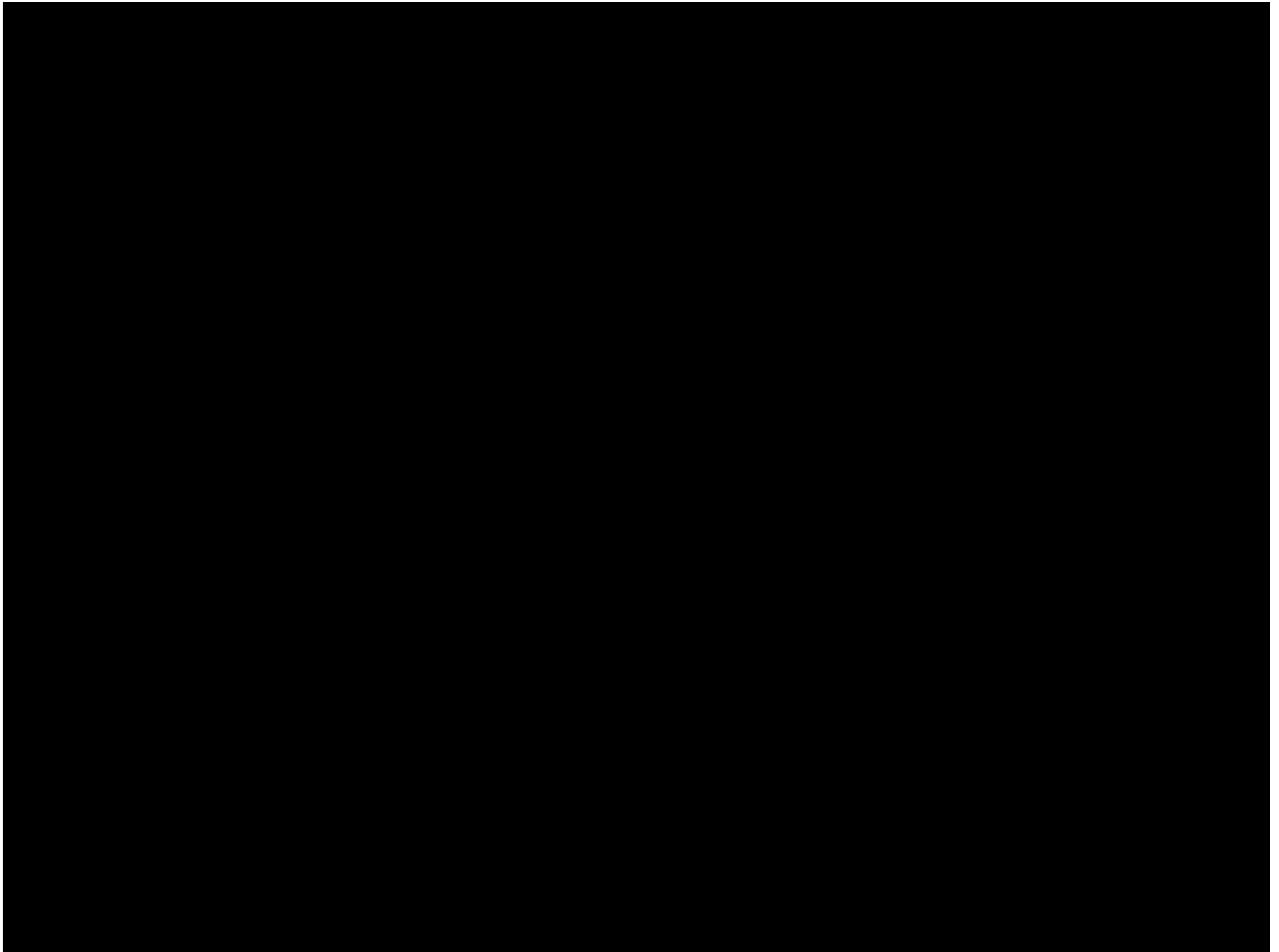
Watch videos of a variety of speeches, and have students identify:

- What does the speaker do well?
- What does the speaker do poorly?
- What is the problem?
- Why is it important?
- What does the the speaker want you to do?



# TAG Feedback

<b>SPEAKER:</b> _____	<b>SPEECH TOPIC:</b> _____
<b>T</b> Tell the speaker something they did well	
<b>A</b> Ask a question	
<b>G</b> Give the speaker a suggestion for how they might improve their speech	



# TAG Feedback

<b>SPEAKER:</b> _____	<b>SPEECH TOPIC:</b> _____
<b>T</b> Tell the speaker something they did well	
<b>A</b> Ask a question	
<b>G</b> Give the speaker a suggestion for how they might improve their speech	

# Spicing Up a Speech



# Delivering a Great Speech





Practice  
Practice  
Practice



# Listening to Learn



**BE PRESENT**



**IT'S NOT  
ABOUT YOU**



**WATCH YOUR BODY  
LANGUAGE**



**ASK CLARIFYING  
QUESTIONS**

# Who Else Should Hear Our Speeches?







# And Beyond...

At last night's Council Meeting Students from Compton Elementary and Tapp Middle School presented speeches they had prepared as part of the new Cobb Soapbox Project during the school year. What a turn out! Great job students! #thisispowdersprings

## CITY OF POWDER



Lindsay Sexton @lsexton1989 · May 21

So proud of our third graders! They presented their speeches at the city council meeting. @Comptoncubs @TrudyDelhey

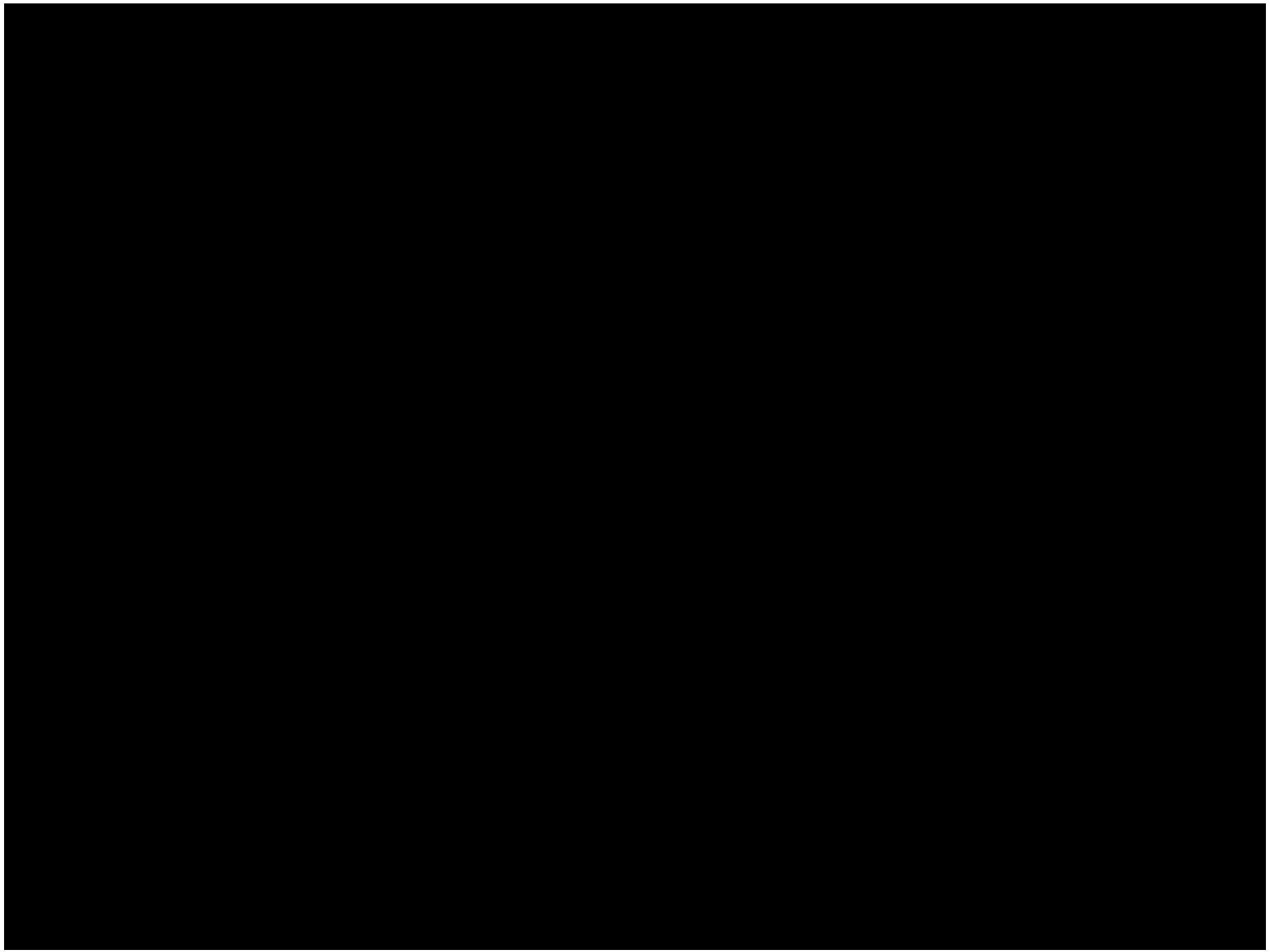


↻ 2

❤️ 19




**Classroom → School-wide → City-wide → Soapbox Nation**






# Virtual Project Soapbox

 Mikva Challenge shared a link. May 6 · 🌐

Liliana from HB duPont Middle School is concerned about pollution. Listen to what she has to say on the issue: <https://youtu.be/Opk7f8e-W0g>





YOUTUBE.COM  
**Liliana F\_Hockessin, DE\_Pollution**  
Liliana F. from Hockessin, DE gets on her Soapbox about Pollution


**744** People Reached      **195** Engagements      Boost Unavailable

👍❤️ 6      2 Comments


👍 Like      💬 Comment      🌐

 **Laura Boyle** Danielle Dallas this is so true and heartfelt! proud of you Lily!  
Like · Reply · 3w · Edited      🌐 1

 **Holly Franklin Golder** Great use of facts and delivery in your speech. It is clear that that pollution is very important to you. Have you seen the reports that since Covid-19 and the restriction of travel there has been decreases in pollution? What do you think is the most important thing we can do to ensure pollution is decreasing? Thank you for sharing and using your voice!  
Like · Reply · 3w

 Mikva Challenge shared a link. April 28 · 🌐

Hakeem from William Penn High School takes a powerful stand against police brutality: <https://youtu.be/hyHj70Wvg1U>





YOUTUBE.COM  
**Hakeem B\_New Castle, DE\_Police Brutality**  
Hakeem B from new Castle, DE gets on his Soapbox about police...

**46** People Reached      **7** Engagements      Boost Unavailable

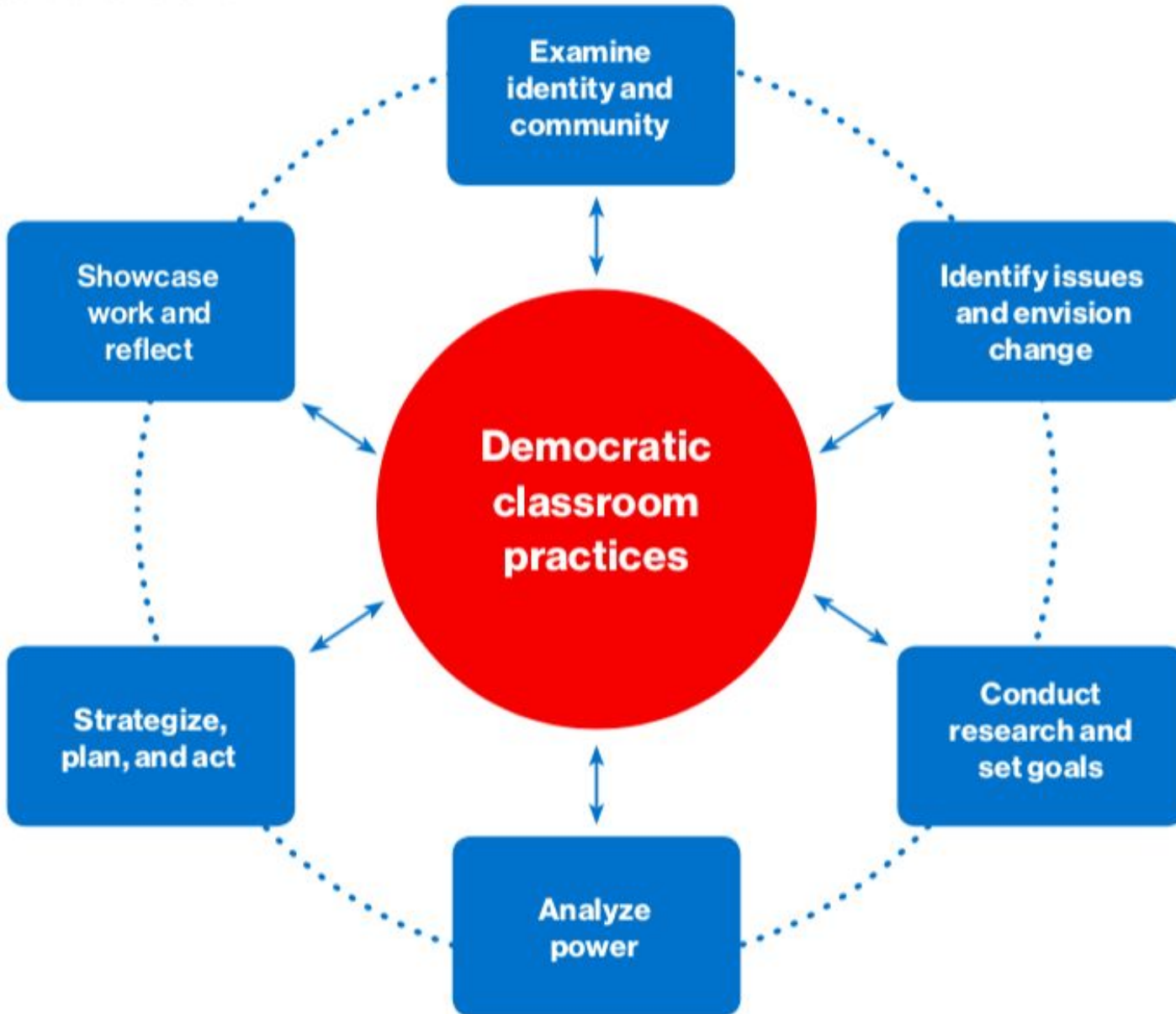
👍 2      2 Comments

👍 Like      💬 Comment      🌐

 **Lara LeVoy** Hakeem, Thank you for your Soapbox Speech on Police Brutality. It is powerful how you deconstruct the argument that the officer made as to why he shot Michael Brown. Your reasoning makes sense. Well done. At the end of your speech, you seem to almost i... [See More](#)  
Like · Reply · 4w

 **Patti Stevens** Hakeem - What a powerful speech! The way you organized and delivered facts and your personal experience with police brutality made it very impactful. The way you deconstructed the incident really made me reflect and think about what happened and why. ... [See More](#)  
Like · Reply · 3w

# Issues to Action



“It’s the first time for many of the young people to be able to structurally listen to their peers, and for adults to listen to their students about the issues that matter to them...there’s a structure for listening...’

Because the format of the speech presentations encourages listening, students have the opportunity to hear new perspectives and develop a deeper understanding of each other and the issues important to their peers.”

-- Andolina and Conklin

“*[Project Soapbox]* changed my teaching. It made me realize that if you don't listen to students, it's one of the main reasons they don't listen to you...students have knowledge and that knowledge can impact change, and it's unique and important...When they're listened to, they feel taken seriously, and they take things seriously.”

--Teacher

# *Mikva Challenge*

<https://mikvachallenge.org/curricula/>

[jill@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:jill@mikvachallenge.org)

[mia@mikvachallenge.org](mailto:mia@mikvachallenge.org)