BECOMING A MUSIC ADVOCATE

STUDY GUIDE

INSTILLING A SPIRIT OF ADVOCACY TO PROMOTE THE FUTURE OF MUSIC

As musicians, we are keenly aware of the wide-ranging benefits music can have on communities, education, and the economy. These benefits, however, are not always understood by others in decision making positions when determining budgets, curriculum, and policy that might negatively impact music. It becomes incumbent for musicians and music lovers to become knowledgeable about the issues to make persuasive arguments to promote the health and accessibility of music for all.

*Spark Curiosity!*  
Encouraging students to learn more about the issues that impact music can increase their personal investment in your program and foster life-long involvement in music.

LEARNING OBJECTIVES

1. Promote critical thinking in determining the issues and challenges surrounding music
2. Develop specific goals in addressing these issues
3. Identify possible solutions and develop compelling, persuasive talking points

LESSON PLANS

Consider developing lesson plans to meet these learning objectives through the study of music advocacy. Here are some ideas to get you started:

- Encourage students to articulate why music is important. Does it promote individual creativity? Does it foster a sense of community? Does it help the economy? Is it important to other disciplines and sectors such as technology? Have students strengthen their positions through research and facts rather than personal opinion and anecdotes.

- Have students identify issues that are a threat to music. Are music creators being fairly compensated? What are issues with regards to diversity, equity and inclusion in music? Are there any legislative policies that negatively impact music? What is the state of music education and music in the schools?

- Provide possible solutions to address these issues and reinforce the importance of music. How can participation in music be incentivized? How should policies be changed to promote music? How can access to quality music education expand? What can be done to create a more inclusive environment in music? Consider having students write several concise, compelling talking points and present them to the class.

RESOURCE