

# The WHYS of Student Council



In small groups, take 15 minutes to read through and discuss these “WHYS” of student council. By crossing through blocks, cut the list in half.

Take another 10 minutes to cut the list in half again: 40 to 20 to 10. Now is the hard part, cut the list in half one more time to display the top five reasons for student council.

Now team up with another group and discuss the top five “whys” from each group and come to a consensus on a combined top five list.

Continue pairing up with other groups until the large group has their top five “whys” of student council.



Advisors and Administrators may wish to add additional WHYS – maybe start with 50 WHYS and work your way down to the top five. Remember, student council is a STUDENT organization and it is the student voice/opinion that is the most important. Students need to “own” the organization if order for it to be productive.

*See next page for list*



*Credit: Tom Heethuis, Michigan Association of Student Councils (MASC), first shared this at a [NA4SA](#) conference. Thanks so much!*

To serve as a go-between for students and the administration 1	To improve attitudes 11	To organize student activities and administer them 21	To sponsor social and recreational activities 31
To improve inter-school relationships 2	To improve faculty relations 12	To bring student ideas to the administration 22	To encourage understanding, respect and appreciation for cultural differences 32
To be a communication tool for students in the school 3	To participate in and promote school service projects 13	To represent student interest in policy decisions 23	To promote good public relations 33
To promote the general welfare of students 4	To raise academic standards 14	To teach students how school is run 24	To promote school spirit and develop school loyalty 34
To conduct and regulate school elections and campaigns 5	To be responsive to students needs 15	To teach students how democracy functions 25	To develop a sense of school pride 35
To establish traditions and carry them on 6	To train young leaders 16	To lead the student body to achieve its best efforts 26	To provide learning opportunities for students 36
To represent the student body and clubs 7	To represent student opinion 17	To promote student interests 27	To learn lifetime skills on being leaders and followers 37
To teach leadership, scholarship and citizenship 8	To help students adjust to school 18	To teach young people what the job of student council is 28	To practice effective group dynamics 38
To identify problems 9	To prepare young people for living in a democracy 19	To direct the student body 29	To learn meeting skills 39
To solve problems 10	To facilitate communicate between groups 20	To represent, to coordinate, to do 30	To project a positive image of the school 40