

When asked whether our students have problems expressing themselves, I often say, “it’s not that they don’t express themselves, it’s that they don’t do it well.” Often, our students’ expression relies on conflict and negative exchanges.

Many of our students’ opinions haven’t been validated in their lives. When they speak, it falls upon deaf ears or is treated with a negative response.

Lifting Voices has consistently provided a strong platform for the students to fully express themselves and have an extremely talented staff to listen and prompt deeper reflection. It has been amazing to see the most disengaged student open up about their fears, ambitions, and perspective within 30 minutes of an initial Lifting Voices workshop.

The curriculum constantly challenges our students to engage in positive dialogue and make well informed choices both in their writing and in their lives. I’ve never seen our students as engaged as they are in the Lifting Voices workshops. Why? Because not only are they creatively challenged in a structured, engaging environment, but they are listened to and validated. That to me is one of the most important elements of Lifting Voices workshops.

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Program Director