

The ABC's of Advocacy

Presented by: Leadership in Disabilities & Achievement of
Hawaii

Hawaii and Pacific Islands' Parent Training & Information Center



- Provide a basic understanding of advocacy
- Emphasis on
 - Special Education/General Education
 - Advocating on behalf of another

Today's Presentation Goals

- **ad·vo·ca·cy**

- is the pursuit of influencing outcomes — including public-policy and resource allocation decisions within political, economic, and social systems and institutions — that directly affect people’s lives. (Cohen, 2001) Wikipedia
- n. The act of pleading or arguing in favor of something, such as a cause, idea, or policy; active support. American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th edition
- The act of pleading for or supporting; work of advocating; intercession. Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary

What is Advocacy?

- Self-advocacy (to advocate for oneself)
- Individual advocacy (to advocate for another)
- System advocacy (to change the system)
- Legal advocacy (to change the law)

Types of Advocacy?



- To change for the better
- Improve conditions
- To be heard



Why Advocate?

Individuals like you



Who Does Advocacy?

Assertiveness

Accountability

Attitude

Action



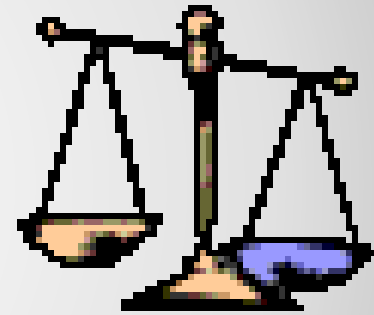
What Makes an Advocate?

Believe

Basics

Balance

Builder



What Makes an Advocate?

Confidence

Credibility



Communication

Correspondence

Confidentiality

What Makes an Advocate?

- Laid back?
- In your face?
- Live and let live?
- Let your fingers do the talking?
- Calm and assertive?
- Quiet but effective?



What is your advocacy style?

Let's get ready to advocate!

- Substituting your beliefs as the advocate for the beliefs of others
- Creating conflict for conflict sake
- A chance to get even for past wrongs done to you
- An opportunity to make yourself feel powerful at the expense of others

Advocacy is Not!

The reputation of advocacy, and advocates will suffer or improve depending on our advocacy approach.

- Remember:
 - Be assertive, not adversarial
 - Research, be prepared and knowledgeable
 - Believe in the cause, and for whom you are advocating

Cowardice asks the question: is it safe?
Expediency asks the question: is it politic?
Vanity asks the question: is it popular?
But conscience asks the question: is it right?
And there comes a time when one must take
a position that is neither safe, nor politic,
nor popular- but one must take it simply
because it is right.”

Martin Luther King Jr.

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Did we accomplish our goals?

- Washington Protection & Advocacy System - www.wpas-rights.org
- Wikipedia
- American Heritage Dictionary of the English Language, 4th edition
- Webster's Revised Unabridged Dictionary

References