

# Finding Your Voice™

*A 5-Week Communication & Leadership Journey · Ages 9–12 · Course Syllabus*

## Course Overview

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Finding Your Voice™ helps students discover their voice, become active listeners, and confidently express their ideas.

Designed as a natural companion to Techwillow's coding curriculum, students learn how to present projects, collaborate with others, and develop leadership skills that extend beyond the classroom.

### Format

- 5 weekly virtual sessions, 30 minutes each
- Delivered live, in a small-group format, via video
- Each session follows the same five-part rhythm: Welcome & Warm-Up, This Week's Skill, Let's Talk About It, Practice Time, Carry This With You

### A Note on Content

This course works well on its own, and even better alongside a coding or project-based course — students are encouraged to bring a real project (coding or otherwise) to practice presenting in Weeks 4 and 5, but no specific software or curriculum is required to take part.

### Outcome

Students build confidence in speaking, listening, teamwork, and presenting ideas while learning to communicate with clarity and respect.

## Weekly Session Plans

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### WEEK 1 — Finding My Voice

#### Learning Objective

Students identify a personal strength or interest and practice sharing it in a low-stakes setting.

#### Welcome & Warm-Up (3 min)

"Name, Sound, Move": each student says their name plus one thing they're proud of making or doing, paired with a simple gesture. The group echoes it back.

#### This Week's Skill (7 min)

Introduce the idea that confidence in speaking starts with knowing what you actually want to say — not with being the loudest voice in the room.

#### Let's Talk About It (5 min)

- What's something you're proud of that you don't usually talk about?
- When do you feel most comfortable sharing your ideas?

#### Practice Time (10 min)

In pairs, each student shares one "proud moment" (something they made, learned, or accomplished) with a partner — no full-group sharing yet.

#### Carry This With You

This week's takeaway: "My voice is worth sharing."

### WEEK 2 — Listening Like a Leader

#### Learning Objective

Students learn that leadership starts with listening and kindness, not just talking.

#### Welcome & Warm-Up (3 min)

Quick recap: share one proud moment from a partner last week (not your own).

#### This Week's Skill (7 min)

Introduce active listening — eye contact, not interrupting, asking a follow-up question — as a leadership skill, not just a politeness rule.

#### Let's Talk About It (5 min)

- What does it feel like when someone really listens to you?
- What's a good follow-up question you could ask a friend about their idea?

#### Practice Time (10 min)

"Interviewer for a Day": in pairs, students interview each other using three starter questions, then introduce their partner to the group ("This is \_\_\_, and they told me...").

#### Carry This With You

This week's takeaway: "Great leaders are great listeners."

### WEEK 3 — Speaking with Confidence

#### Learning Objective

Students learn a calming breathing technique and practice clear voice, eye contact, and posture.

### Welcome & Warm-Up (3 min)

"Balloon Breathing": in for 4, hold for 2, out for 4, practiced together as a group.

### This Week's Skill (7 min)

Introduce the idea that nerves before speaking are normal — the goal isn't to eliminate them, but to have a tool ready for when they show up.

### Let's Talk About It (5 min)

- What does your body feel like right before you have to speak in front of people?
- What's one thing that helps you feel steadier?

### Practice Time (10 min)

"Describe It" game: in pairs, one student describes a mystery object or picture without naming it while their partner tries to guess it — practicing clear voice and pacing.

### Carry This With You

This week's takeaway: "I can feel nervous and still speak clearly."

## WEEK 4 — Telling the Story of My Work

### Learning Objective

Students learn a simple, reusable structure for presenting any project: What I made → Why I made it → What I learned → What's next.

### Welcome & Warm-Up (3 min)

Quick round-robin: "If your project could talk, what's the first thing it would say about itself?"

### This Week's Skill (7 min)

Walk through the four-part structure and model it briefly with a simple example.

### Let's Talk About It (5 min)

- What's a project or thing you've made that you'd like to tell people about?
- What was the trickiest part of making it?

### Practice Time (10 min)

Each student drafts a short talk about a real project (coding or otherwise) using the four-part structure, and practices it once with a partner.

### Carry This With You

This week's takeaway: "Every project has a story worth telling."

## WEEK 5 — Presenting With Confidence

### Learning Objective

Students deliver their project talk to the group and practice answering a friendly question, treating mistakes as part of presenting rather than something to fear.

### Welcome & Warm-Up (3 min)

Group breathing reset (Balloon Breathing from Week 3) before presentations begin.

### This Week's Skill (5 min)

Introduce a simple strategy for answering questions on the spot: "That's a great question... I think... because..."

### **Let's Talk About It (5 min)**

- What's one thing that could go wrong while presenting, and how could you recover from it?

### **Practice Time (12 min)**

Each student presents their project talk (1–2 minutes) to the group, with one friendly question from a peer afterward. Facilitator gives one specific piece of encouragement per presenter.

### **Carry This With You — Series Closing**

This week's takeaway: "I can present what I've made, mistakes and all." Close the course with the full refrain: My voice is worth sharing. Great leaders are great listeners. I can feel nervous and still speak clearly. Every project has a story worth telling. I can present what I've made, mistakes and all.

Certificate of completion, and encourage students to present again at a live Techwillow showcase event if one is available.

## Facilitator Notes

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- The five-part structure stays fixed each week so students build a reliable rhythm across the course.
- Encourage students to bring a real project to Weeks 4 and 5 — a coding project is ideal, but any project they're proud of works.
- Keep peer questions in Week 5 genuinely friendly and curious — this is a celebration, not a critique session.
- Give every presenter specific, concrete encouragement rather than generic praise ("I liked how you explained the tricky part" rather than "good job").