

SHAUN BOOTHE'S
LIVE. YOUR. LEGACY.
MOTIVATIONAL ASSEMBLIES



A TEACHER'S GUIDE

LEADERSHIP ACTIVITIES TO ENGAGE YOUTH AUDIENCES

Activities and resources compiled by Letecia Rose

ABOUT THE ARTIST

Hip-hop artist. Motivational TEDx speaker. Creator of the critically acclaimed Unauthorized Biography Series.

Shaun Boothe's passion to succeed has been evident since day one. From intern to international, he started his career with a temp job at Much Music.

He was offered the job after winning the nationwide MuchMusic Temp competition - beating out thousands of hopefuls and earning him a cool \$25,000 and a condo for the summer.

More valuable than that, however, he learned a priceless life lesson: Nothing is impossible. Nearly ten years later, he returned to 'The Nation's Music Station' and walked the red carpet, not as a contest winner, but as an MMVA nominated recording artist. It seems the lesson was never forgotten.

Since then, Shaun has continued using his talents to innovate and inspire audiences. He is renowned for his conceptual and highly interactive performances - many of which have graced the opening stages of concerts for multi-platinum artists, including Nas, Lauryn Hill, Kardinal Offishall and Snoop Dogg. However, as he continued to grow, he realized that his true passion was bringing his performances to schools to inspire and educate youth.

ABOUT THE SHOW

Shaun Boothe pours his talent into a presentation designed to motivate young audiences using rap songs that chronicle the extraordinary lives of cultural icons. His engaging take on the trails blazed by cultural giants like Malala Yousafzai, Terry Fox and Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. imbues students with the courage to find their own paths. By "learning from the greats," students can examine their own strengths and goals, and take away actionable lessons with which to energize their lives.

Shaun's unique presentation, interspersed with musical performances from his acclaimed Unauthorized Biography Series, infuses the greatest stories of our time with the contagious energy of hip hop delivery. Rather than sugar coating the lives of people like Muhammad Ali, Oprah Winfrey and Bob Marley, Shaun encourages identification with their stories by highlighting the struggles that gave their achievements meaning. The multimedia program includes video projection, and is pan-curricular.

There are two Live Your Legacy presentations:

1. The first offering includes the celebration of the lives of *Terry Fox, Malala Yousafzai and Bob Marley.*
2. The second offering is intended for Black History Month and explores the lives of heroes such as *Muhammad Ali, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., Oprah Winfrey, Lincoln Alexander and Bob Marley.*

WHY LEADERSHIP?

*"If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then, you are an excellent leader."
- Dolly Parton*

All the amazing individuals that Shaun Boothe profiles in his Unauthorized Biography Series have a number of great traits. However, the most important quality that they all share is that they are all great examples of leaders. They had difficult upbringings, faced many barriers, made tough decisions, and paid high prices for doing so. They also were very successful, had many triumphs, they inspired many and they changed the world with their ideas, art and passion. It is because of these reasons and more that they have been profiled by Shaun, using their stories to help shape how we view leadership.

This is why we focus on leadership.

The activities in this guide will challenge your students to reflect on the concept of leadership and get them thinking about the type of leader that they want to be and the type of legacy that they want to leave behind. The hope is that sparking the flame of leadership within your students will empower them to become tomorrow's leaders of civic action and social change locally and globally.





PRE-SHOW QUESTIONS

Prior to Shaun's visits with your students, doing some pre-viewing activities is a great way to stimulate their interest and start introducing them to the concepts and ideas that he will be discussing in his presentation. This guide provides discussion questions and activities that you can use to engage your class. Based on your students, you will want to tailor the questions and activities to meet their diverse needs.

1. Do you ever listen to rap music? How is rap music different from other kinds of music?
2. What would you write about if you were going to write a song? Would it be about your life? Someone else's? Something happening in the world?
3. Who are some great examples of leaders in history? What did they do that made them a great leader?
4. What are characteristics of a positive leader? What are characteristics of a negative leader?
5. What does the word LEGACY mean? Why do so many great leaders leave great legacies?
6. What do they do that makes them a great leader?
7. What are some difficult choices that a leader past or present had to make? How do you think they made the choice they made?
8. Describe/ Identify a time that you had to make a difficult decision.
9. Why is it important to recognize the contributions of great leaders past and present?

PRE-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Leadership Quotes

Post a variety of leadership quotes around the room. Ideally, have the quotes touch on different aspects of leadership. Try to mix in quotes from some well-known heroes like in Shaun's Unauthorized Biography Series - Terry Fox, Bob Marley, Malala Yousafzai, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. etc.

Have each student stand by one that speaks to them or shows their leadership values. Have them explain why it's relevant to their lives.

Follow up with a discussion about how leadership is driven by personal values, and how great values create great lives.

2. Leaders You Admire

Divide the class into small groups. Ask participants to share a story about the best or most influential leader that they have encountered. After each story, identify leadership characteristics by asking the question: "What was it that made this person such an effective leader?" Then as a group, identify the traits that all the leaders seemed to share. All groups then write the shared traits on a white board.

You can use this traits list as a springboard to explore more about what makes a good leader.

<http://www.workshopexercises.com/Leadership.htm#L1>

POST-SHOW DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

After Shaun's visit, it is important to continue discussions about the biographies in the classroom. Included are activities and assignments that can be used in your class to allow each student to dig deeper and explore the concepts of leadership and legacy further.

1. What was something interesting that you learned about one of the profiled leaders today that you didn't know before?
2. Which profiled leader were you most inspired by? Why?
3. What were some of the barriers that the profiled leaders had to face in their lives? How did they overcome those barriers?
4. Was using hip hop an effective way to tell a biography? Why or why not?
5. What was an important message that you took away from this presentation?
6. What does it take to be a real hero? Who are some of your personal heroes and why do they inspire you?
7. What are ways YOU can be a hero (or positive leader) in your community/school?
8. Can you name other artists who use their art to tell stories and make social change?
9. Why is it important to share the legacies of those who came before us?

POST-SHOW ACTIVITIES

1. Create your own short Bio Rap or poem celebrating a hero (positive leader) of your choice.
2. If you could say anything to any one of the heroes from the presentation what would it be? Write it as a rap/poem!
3. Write your own Authorized Autobiography:

Students will create and share the stories of their lives

Time:

60 min

Materials:

- Story of My Life handout

DIRECTIONS:

1. Find out if the students know the difference between a biography and an autobiography? Get them to define each. Inform the class that they will be creating their own autobiography.

Shaun used hip hop music to share his biographies with the school. Have the class/group brainstorm the different ways that they can share/tell their life story.

Some examples are:

- Video
 - Power Point or Prezi
 - Poster
 - Scrapbook
 - Puzzle
 - Comic Strip
 - Picture Book
 - Song
 - A unique craft
2. Have students pick a medium that interests them and ask them to create an autobiography that will tell their classmates the story of their lives. Have the students use the following questions as a guide:
 - What values shape who you are?
 - Who do you look up to or admire?
 - What words do you live by?
 - Were you born in Canada? Where is your family from?
 - Are there any accomplishments you would like to highlight?
 - What are your favourite things to watch on TV? What are your favourite movies?
 - Are there any significant events that made you realize different things about yourself?
 - What is your favourite place in the whole world and why?
 - Who is important to you? Who makes you feel happy?
 - What has helped to make you the person you are today?
 3. Give the students the remaining time in class to brainstorm and create. Print out the assignment sheet and allow the students to take it home to complete the assignment (typically 1 week). Inform them that they will be presenting.
 4. On the presentation day, have all the students present their autobiographies to the class. (Please note, depending on how many students you have, you may need to do this over the course of two days)

STORY OF MY LIFE ASSIGNMENT

Here is your chance to tell the world about you! Use the questions below to write your own autobiography. Here are some questions that can help you create your project:

- What values shape who you are?
- Who do you look up to or admire?
- What words do you live by?
- Were you born in Canada? Where is your family from?
- Are there any accomplishments you would like to highlight?
- What are your favourite things to watch on TV? What are your favourite movies?
- Are there any significant events that made you realize different things about yourself?
- What is your favourite place in the whole world and why?
- Who is important to you? Who makes you feel happy?
- What has helped to make you the person you are today?

Your project can be a....

- Video
- Power Point presentation
- Poster
- Scrapbook
- Puzzle
- Comic Strip
- Picture Book
- Song
- Other...BE CREATIVE!