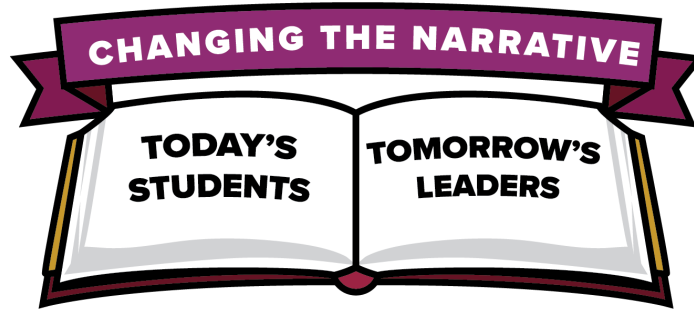




MSAN STUDENT CONFERENCE

November 4-7, 2026

Hosted by Shaker Heights City School District

2026 MSAN Student Conference

Required Pre-Conference Materials and Guiding Questions

As you read, watch, and listen, reflect on the following guiding questions below each item and discuss your thoughts with your team. No written response is needed unless your team decides to capture the group's thoughts for reference later. During the conference, we will refer to these materials.

- A. Watch [Introduction to Youth Participatory Research](#) (YPAR)
 - a. This year, teams will use the general framework of YPAR to anchor their action plans. The video introduces the basic foundations of YPAR and the general components that YPAR projects include. After watching the video, teams should begin brainstorming and discussing the following:
 - i. What are some of the major challenges and/or most critical issues affecting the success of students of color in your school and/or district?
 - ii. How do you know these are important issues or challenges that need to be addressed?
 - iii. How might your team learn more about these issues?

For the next four resources, students and advisors are invited to read the poem, complete the two readings, watch the video, and reflect on the accompanying questions. Please feel free to divide the work among your group members and then come together to discuss your thoughts and responses before the conference.

- B. Read the poem by Nathan Spoon below:

This is a note of encouragement
Left in a difficult world, during a difficult moment.
This is a secret you already know,

even though you are waiting to realize that,
you are the answer everybody else is waiting for.
There is no pressure. You are the answer.

- a. THINK: (30 seconds) Quietly reflect on the poem. What is it saying to you?
 - b. PAIR: (30 seconds) Find a partner nearby and share your ideas.
 - c. SHARE: (1 minute) Open the discussion to your MSAN group.
- C. Read [Defining Narrative Change](#) - The article is an FYI reading. He walks us through a reflective WHY, WHAT, WHEN, and WHERE of narrative change in our society.
- a. What are the steps that Rob Fields outlines as being necessary for change?
 - b. Do you agree or disagree? Why?
- D. Read [Teenagers on Why They Believe They Can Change the World for the Better](#) - The reading shares the voices of the GEN Z students, who express their opinions on how they can change the narrative for the world they live in.
- a. How is technology changing the way student leaders communicate?
 - b. What gives you hope that your generation can change the world for the better?
 - c. What are the major concerns facing your school or community today, and how would you like to "change the narrative" regarding these issues?
- E. Watch [Redefining Student Leadership](#) - Misbah shares her experiences with leadership and how she believes young students can be empowered to become leaders in their everyday lives.
- a. What defines a leader when no official title is given?
 - b. How do your personal values guide your decisions as a leader?
 - c. How can student leaders create lasting change after graduation?