

# Speak Up!

**Empowering** emerging citizens

Speak Up! is a citizenship education programme for students in years 10-13 that develops free speech ideas and critical thinking skills



## Our **next generation** face an **uncertain future.**

A healthy democracy needs active citizens who understand the basic principles behind their rights, and have the skills to engage well in conversations that will shape our nation.

## **Preparing** our next generation for **active citizenship.**



The Speak Up! Programme is designed to help students to:

- think for themselves
- be creative
- develop empathy
- make rational, evidence-based decisions, and
- engage in constructive discourse with those with whom they may disagree

## A **free, fun,** and **intellectually stimulating** experience.



In-school seminar



30-90 minutes  
(school dependent)



Ideally for years 10-13



Student-led dialogue  
through a Socratic  
approach

## We'll make it **work for you.**

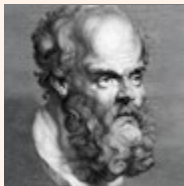
Sessions tailored to subject-specific content and learner needs.

## What your **students can expect**

- history of free speech and its role in political innovation, social reform and creativity/problem-solving
- the way in which free speech benefits minorities more than majorities
- discussion of the challenges to free thought and speech from government and civil society along with self-censorship
- intellectual role-play looking at modern views on where people think the limits of free speech should be drawn

## The **building blocks** of **active citizenship**

Rather than looking at any particular controversial political or social issues, Speak Up! focuses instead on the fundamental ways in which a positive culture of free speech nurtures critical thinking and independent inquiry. We take inspiration from luminaries like:



**Socrates**



**Saint Paul**



**Martin Luther  
King Jr.**



**Kate Sheppard**

We take a **principled approach**,  
not a partisan one

Upholding free speech isn't about which side of the field we're playing from. It's about ensuring the rules of the game are clear, fair and everyone is able to get involved. Whatever your politics – left, right or in-between - free speech is about promoting greater participation from everyone.

## Testimonials

"An invigorating session on the preciousness of free speech. It's more than a right, it is also about seeking and receiving ideas, fundamental to learning and empathy. Nick urged students to advocate for others, take responsibility for their words, and test their views through good-faith debate and active listening."

— Rob Thomas, Head of Social Sciences, Elim Christian College, Auckland

"Having worked as both a teacher and principal over the past forty years, I recommend the Speak Up programme to every school. It gives students the ability to constructively engage as citizens, and an appreciation of why free speech, debate and independent thought matter now more than ever."

— Gary Mawson, Secondary School Teacher, Whangarei



Nick Hanne has worked as a qualified secondary school teacher and specialised in NCEA History, English and, for the past seven years, Theory of Knowledge within the International Baccalaureate Diploma. Prior to teaching, he gained a M.A. in Political Studies.

If you think this sounds like an opportunity to prepare your students, get in touch with Nick to arrange a meeting to explore more.

[Nick@fsu.nz](mailto:Nick@fsu.nz)

**Speak  
up!**



**FREE SPEECH UNION**  
KIA RANGONA TE KŌRERO

Speak Up! is a Free Speech Union initiative. Free Speech Union was set up by a diverse bunch of New Zealanders to defend those whose free speech rights are threatened, and promote a culture of free speech. Speak Up! is about equipping our next generation to participate well in public discourse. [fsu.nz](http://fsu.nz)