Kelly Fomalont

Assignment 4

Every year Eye to Eye’s national office receives hundreds of emails and letters asking for mentors. Each one pleads for a positive role model to be packaged and shipped to their child with a learning disability or ADHD. Unfortunately, finding a mentor takes time, money, and a chapter, but now we can do the next best thing: send a “Think Different Diplomat.” The Think Different Diplomats speak around the country about the scientific basis of learning disabilities, their personal story, and ways to empower those with learning disabilities.

The national office trains Diplomats on the scientific background, their story, and empowerment to create powerful speakers. To represent Eye to Eye and the entire LD community, highly committed and passionate chapter members from different parts of the country work on speaking skills, memorizing key facts, and writing speeches. The Diplomats spend many hours working with professional speakers to perfect their story and ways to convey meaningful information. After training, the Diplomats return home and wait for a speaking request near their area. The highly specified training gives each the skills to appropriately represent our LD community to their own respective communities.

Having Diplomats across the country saves time and money for our organization while staying true to our mission. Diplomats travel short distances to areas our chapters cannot reach, and provide a personal and uplifting event for large groups of parents, students, and education workers. This cuts travel costs and allows my co-workers and me to focus on our work at the national office. We do not yet have the funds to start a chapter in every city in the country so the Think Different Diplomats will help continue our mission. Especially for areas with small populations, the Think Different Diplomats provide an efficient solution for those desperate parents asking for mentors.

Behind those desperate parents are struggling students with learning disabilities. The Think Different Diplomats provide these students with a relatable, positive role model. Every diplomat has experienced those students’ feelings, and can provide insight and a new perspective on learning disabilities. Also, Diplomats speak to education workers and parents to create an accepting and helpful community around those students. Each of their speeches allows the audience to understand, connect with, and empower those with learning disabilities and their communities.

Now we ask you to go to your communities and tell them about the Think Different Diplomats. At Eye to Eye we know this service will spread our mission and help create a world that accepts everyone with a learning disability or ADHD. To continue the ripple effect of rethinking learning disabilities this organization has started, the Diplomats must speak and tell their stories. We ask that you spread the word about the Think Different Diplomats so that together we can change the world!