

TOP 10 ACTIVITIES LIBRARIES can do to partner with *Future Child Advocates* student clubs

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[Letitia James @TishJames](#) (2015, July 15).

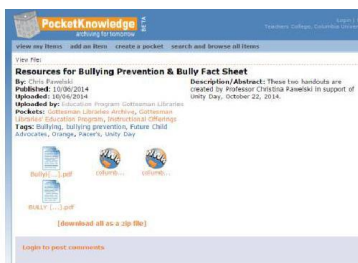
“Libraries are no longer silent aisles of books, but interactive learning centers.”

[Twitter Post] NYC Public Advocate [#IdeasBox](#)

LIBRARIES AS FCA PARTNERS. Libraries are a critical element of every college/university institution – as repositories of knowledge, of course; but more recently even serving as facilitators of constructing that knowledge in new and creative ways. *Future Child Advocates* student organizations need to seriously consider partnering with their Library professionals on campus to help them achieve their goals, especially in the areas of **Public Awareness** and **Professional Development**. The following listing provides concrete examples of how this could be achieved resulting in positive outcomes on all fronts!

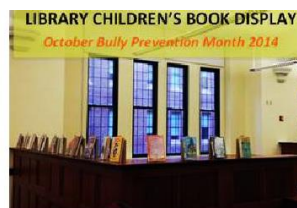
1. Development of Annotated Bibliographies on Targeted Topics

Professional Development. Perhaps the most powerful support to FCA club initiatives by Library staff is their ability/skill to develop annotated Bibliographies on targeted areas of bullying and child abuse that could be available on various types of digital media (e.g. Wikis, websites, etc.). This could also be resources for faculty who could add these citations to their course syllabi or suggested readings for a particular course session. Club members can help in promoting these types of Library activities which can also result in Student Papers or Research in these areas, too.



2. Book Displays-Specialized Topics

Public Awareness and Professional Development. Books on display are always good ways to make library patrons (in and outside of the universities) aware of the many types of books available on a single topic. Sometimes the illustration or title can attract a potential reader to “open and read more” about the topic. Successful book displays for children in important areas of interest to FCA clubs have been designed for bringing resources to students, staff and others. Accompanying the Book Displays were also the Book Lists and where they could be purchased, providing ideas for enhancing a personal library or even “gift giving” to family members and friends.



3. Tabling – Resources

Public Awareness. Libraries at all college/universities continue to be central locations that most students frequent on a fairly regular basis (e.g. to study, to access resources, to connect with others, etc.). There are usually spaces before entering the library that can be very useful for FCA clubs to set-up a Resource Table with fact sheets, bibliographies, flyers to announce upcoming events or even engage students in conversations regarding the issues, i.e. encouraging them to “get involved” or “take a stand”, etc. These types of “Tabling” activities worked very well especially to highlight October as “Anti-Bullying” month and disseminate information re upcoming events on campus or in the community.



4. Movie Screenings

Public Awareness. There are many short documentaries in particular that are available in the topic areas of Bullying and Child Abuse Prevention and Intervention (e.g. *Bully the Movie*, *Let's Ge Real*, etc.). They are often used within courses to sometimes introduce a topic, curriculum area, social issue including an article or speaker to even add to the activity. Libraries also have access to multimedia equipment and broader access to these types of materials which make them ideal locations to “hold” a course session with a Screening, or even invite the community to view this as well.

Let's Ge Real JOIN US!

FILM SCREENING DISCUSSION: TC Wed – 10/22/14 – 305 Russell 3:30 PM - 5:00 PM
Wed – 10/22/14 – 305 Russell 7:00 PM - 8:30 PM

Running Time: 35 minutes **DVD Features:** Producers' interviews, Spanish/ English subtitles. The accompanying *Let's Ge Real Film Curriculum Guide* features valuable lesson plans, discussion starters, classroom activities and handouts for teachers to use in conjunction with the film. **SAMPLES** of student handouts available at Screening Discussion. Great curriculum ideas especially for Middle School students. (Thanks to the support of the HBS Department and Gottesman Libraries, this resource was purchased and will be available as an ongoing part of the TC Library collection.)

This film screening discussion is co-sponsored by the Department of [Gender and Behavioral Studies](#), Towles College [Cultural Center](#), [Libraries](#), Gottesman Libraries and Vice President's Office for Diversity & Community Affairs in support of [Anti-Bullying Month](#).
Dr. Chris Pawelicki, HBS, Film Discussion Facilitator

Let's Ge Real Name-calling and bullying are at epidemic proportions among youth across the country, and are often the root causes of violence in schools. *Let's Ge Real* gives young people the chance to tell their stories in their own words—and the results are heart-breaking, shocking, inspiring and poignant. Unlike the vast majority of films made for schools about the issue, *Let's Ge Real* doesn't sugarcoat the truth or feature adults lecturing kids about what to do when “bad” kids pick on them.



5. Book Club

Professional Development. Book Clubs and community libraries have partnered for years bringing lovers of books together in more formal, facilitated discussions on a wide variety of topics and interests. Establishing a Book Club within a university/college setting can enhance knowledge acquisition beyond required text books or readings. There are many, many types of non-fiction, fiction, poetry, etc. available with a focus on child advocacy in the targeted areas. These types of activities within the college community can also bring together ALL staff, students, faculty to read and discuss the issues with less formal books of interest. Sometimes it's tough to get to neighborhood Book Clubs, too.



6. Library Conversations

Public Awareness and Professional Development. Many libraries (i.e. on college campuses and in the community) also have spaces designated in certain areas where “talking is permitted”. Short (45min-1 hr.) types of “Conversations” have been taking place within many types of libraries to stimulate discussions on important topics or extend learning in more informal ways outside of formal classrooms. These types of events allow for students, faculty, even community members to attend enhancing the diversity of perspectives and engagement beyond departments. The content areas of Bullying and Child Abuse are very much of interest across ages and groups.



7. Guest Talks - Featuring Community Projects with invited Guests & School Groups, too

Professional Development. Libraries at colleges/universities can be “key” to the ability of FCA clubs to “host” speakers for their monthly Club Meetings or even Feature Community Advocates or Projects that demonstrate state-of-the-art work going on in their local neighborhoods in terms of Child Advocacy – Anti-Bullying Programs or Child Abuse issues. The speakers/projects featured here were fabulous presentations given by local quilters explaining the power of this medium in highlighting causes of societal importance; Assistant District Attorneys and Interviewers also came to dramatically illustrate and instruct students and faculty about their cases. An exciting Community Project – “*Making Books Sing*” – even brought an elementary class to the Library to demonstrate the power of Theatre in curriculum work related to Anti-Bullying. (**Learning at the Library:** <https://vialogues.com/vialogues/play/22259/>)



8. Poster/Other Displays

Public Awareness. Libraries are continuing to do more with their spaces in all ways – including walls and posters to highlight current issues, including advocacy (e.g. Anti-Bullying, Child Abuse Prevention). Given the presence of possible graphic design/art departments in most colleges/universities, FCA student clubs can engage them in helping to create visual displays that can creatively draw attention to important areas. A very successful display example featured here, which included the broader Community, involved the creation of Quilts facilitated by FCA club members around “*Creating a Better Future – What Do We Need to Do?*” Local Quilters provided historical perspectives on the advocacy role quilts of all kinds played (e.g. AIDS Quilt, Triangle Fire Quilt). These discussions/displays brought a college campus and community together with the Library serving as a key facilitator of the events.



9. Making Book Marks

Public Awareness. This is just a “fun activity” that can engage anyone...bringing them to the Library where they also might learn more in important areas. There are many templates for making “bookmarks” and FCA clubs can just gather together the materials that could be used to make them (e.g. quotes, pictures, crayons, glue sticks, add-ons). These types of activities are perfect types of “teasers” to get everyone involved in the issues – using creativity as the draw to engage in the more important conversations that might result around that table!



10. News Displays

Public Awareness. In many libraries on college campuses and in the community, there is also cropping up small venues where students/patrons can get coffee/snacks (e.g. Star Bucks type places) as a part of or close to these study areas, etc. This venue also becomes a way for FCA clubs to disseminate information on these walls, etc. The example here shows this Library coffee area as posting large paper posters with “News Displays” from around the world. In October they featured around the world news on BULLYING and in April it was news about child abuse and issues of this nature. The Library presented this material – including a link to “Learn More About It” through their digital news displays as well.



- *Be Bully Free!*, Wednesday, 10/22

In recognition of Pacer's Unity Day and "Be Good To Each Other" theme, we will display articles in support of bullying prevention and initiatives underway by schools, organizations and institutions to eradicate bullying.

Also, be sure to stop by the Information and Resource Table and chat with representatives from TC's Future Child Advocates to learn more about what you can do to make a difference and stop bullying in its various forms and mediums -- physical, emotional, psychological, cyber.

