PROGRAM IDENTITY

FACILITATOR CHEAT SHEET

STUDENT LEADERSHIP: FROM CURRENT REALITY TO FEASIBLE GROWTH

PURPOSE

Ground the group in current reality, clarify student growth goals, and identify realistic next steps that strengthen student leadership, voice, and agency.

OPENING

Say:

- This activity is about growing students, not evaluating adults.
- We're focusing on what exists today, what we want students to be able to do, and what's realistically possible next.

Norms to name:

- Focus on students, not individuals
- List current reality only in Column A
- Small, feasible steps matter

Column A What We Have Now	Column B What We Want Students to Be Able to Do	Column C What's Feasible Next	Column D Let's Get Real
Prompt: List only student leadership, voice, or advocacy structures that exist right now. **Remind:** • No plans or wishes • No future ideas **Redirect if needed:** "If it's not happening yet, leave it out."	**Prompt:** If student leadership and advocacy were working well, what would students be doing that they aren't consistently doing now? **Encourage:** • Action verbs (lead, initiate, influence, mentor) • Student behaviors, not adult actions	**Prompt:** Circle 1–2 items from Column B that feel realistic in the next 6–12 months. **Feasibility Check:** • Builds on what exists • No new funding or staffing • Achievable this year • **Follow-up:** What small shift would move us closer? What adult support is needed (support, not control)?	**Prompt:** What would adults need to stop doing, loosen, or step back from to allow this growth? **Ask:** • Where do we need to trust students more? • What risks are we willing to allow? • **Normalize:** Student agency requires adults to tolerate some uncertainty.

Wrap-Up:

- Ask groups to share:
- One existing strength
- One feasible growth direction

Close with:

- Sustainable student leadership grows when we build from what already exists and give students real opportunities to lead.