

QUICK GUIDE TO USING WKCD.ORG

WKCD began in 2001 as a website devoted to bringing public attention to the vision and ideas of adolescent youth. Digital storytelling was new then and, compared to now, websites were largely primitive.

In the years since, the WKCD website has grown topsy-turvy. At last count, WKCD.org contained over 350 feature stories, 12 special collections, 7 additional websites devoted to special WKCD initiatives, hundreds of video clips and audio slideshows featuring student voices, and much more.

Here's a quick guide.

Feature Stories

We're always on the lookout for stories that showcase "powerful learning with public purpose" by our nation's adolescents—in and outside school. We produce and post these stories regularly. They range in length from 1000 – 15000 words and all put youth voices and work at the forefront. Once a story moves off our "front page," we place it in an archive, where it is arranged chronologically, by theme.

Click on FEATURE STORIES in the menu bar to access the archives. You can also type keywords into the search engine in the WKCD masthead.

Special Collections

Once our work in relation to a specific topic becomes substantive (containing multiple elements) we organize it in SPECIAL COLLECTIONS. These collections are distinct and wide ranging, from advice for parents on how to help their kids succeed in school and beyond to service learning. Some contain the fruits of unique initiatives we've conducted with foundation support: e. g. our three-year program with the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation whereby we supported 52 student action research teams in 17 states or our partnership with MetLife Foundation to embrace students as allies in school reform in five school districts nationwide.

The collections include WKCD-produced stories, toolkits, multimedia, surveys, examples of student work, publications, and links to related WKCD websites. Some of these collections are now part of our archives; others continue to be updated.

Click on SPECIAL COLLECTIONS in the menu bar to access an annotated directory.

Short Publications

Since its start, WKCD has produced a number of short publications that support youth voice and activism, student engagement in school reform, and academic success for students marginalized by class, race, and language. Each of these publications originally appeared in print. Here, we make them available as PDFs for download. You are welcome to duplicate them.

Click on SHORT PUBLICATIONS in the menu bar for an annotated list.

Other WKCD Websites

Starting in 2006, WKCD began launching additional websites that stand separately from wkcd.org, but link to us. Grown from our various program and grant initiatives, each site has its own, special focus.

The newest additions to the constellation are HowYouthLearn.org and its “subsite,” Learning by Heart: The Power of Social-Emotional Learning in Secondary Schools. The first is intended to inform and inspire educators, policy makers, and education advocates; it includes research highlights, student voices, educator resources, videos and more.

The latest, Learning by Heart, includes:

- Five case studies of a diverse collection of schools (three Gr. 9-12, two Gr. 6-12) that weave SEL into their daily fabric
- An executive summary that pulls together effective practices and policy implications from the five studies
- "Close ups" of a distinguishing element at each of the five schools
- Student voices (multimedia created from on-site interviews/photos/video taping)
- Resources for educators who want to take action

The oldest websites in the constellation are FirstintheFamily.org and InOurVillage.org. The former offers practical advice and lessons learned by high school seniors and college students who are the first in their family to attend college. It includes videos WKCD has co-produced with students, grade-by-grade planning checklists, inspirational books and quotes, and links to resources that we have found to be standouts. There is also a special section for college advisors and downloads for parents, in English and Spanish.

InOurVillage.org has grown to encompass a virtual library of more than 40 photo essay books created by youth worldwide.

Click on OTHER WKCD WEBSITES for the complete list and links.

Next Generation Press

Next Generation Press is the nonprofit imprint of WKCD. All Next Generation Press titles feature the voices of youth as a powerful force for justice, understanding, and social change. Whether from small rural communities or urban neighborhoods, young people speak here on issues that matter deeply to them. Some titles are collaborative works by teenagers with adults; others present new youth writers and thinkers. All raise awareness of the rising generation as keepers and creators of vital knowledge and vision. Some also include images photographed by youth—many of whom had never held a camera before.

Profits from book sales are reinvested to support the causes and communities these young co-authors hold dear.

Click on NEXT GENERATION PRESS for a full list of titles, complete descriptions, flip books, and ordering instructions.

WKCD has also published three books with mainstream publishers. All are available through online booksellers and in bookstores.

- *Fires in the Bathroom: Advice for Teachers from High School Students* by Kathleen Cushman and the students of What Kids Can Do (The New Press, 2005)
- *Fires in the Middle School Bathroom: Advice for Teachers from Middle Schoolers* by Kathleen Cushman and the students of What Kids Can Do (The New Press, 2009)
- *Fires in the Mind: What Kids Can Tell Us About Motivation and Mastery* by Kathleen Cushman and the students of What Kids Can Do (Jossey-Bass, 2012)