



Workshop Reviews

From teens . . .

- "Really fun and inspirational." Maia
- "I loved the spark of hope you gave us." Becca
- "This changed my outlook on my life path!" Matt
- "Keep on doing this. You are changing kids' lives!" Nolan
- "We often hear these clichéd terms about what being gifted means, but today helped me realize that it isn't so much about why being gifted makes you different from others, but how being gifted can help your own life journey." Devin

And from their advocates . . .

- "The workshop provided a first step for many of my students - they began a conversation with me that they hadn't felt comfortable initiating and are now speaking up for themselves and ensuring their voices are heard!" Janell, Pathways Coordinator
- "An informative and exciting day for students and teachers alike! Our discussions gave me great ideas about how to grow my role in working with students, and my students felt empowered and inspired by the self-discovery process." Laura, TAG Coordinator
- "Students were truly energized and couldn't wait to implement what they had learned and share their knowledge with peers who were unable to attend. Truly transformational and highly recommended!" Sharon, Gifted and Talented Coordinator

Workshop Facilitator



Deb Douglas consults and advocates for gifted adolescents in the Upper Midwest and beyond.

She served as the gifted education coordinator for the Manitowoc (WI) Public School District for over 15 years before developing their International Baccalaureate Diploma Program. She began her professional career teaching high school English, speech and theatre, then taught K-12 gifted students for nine years. Her M.S. in Curriculum and Instruction focused on gifted education and her thesis involved the ever-changing role of gifted education coordinators. She served nine years as a board member of the Wisconsin Association for Talented and Gifted, the last two as president (2011-13.)

The GT Carpe Diem Workshops, which she developed and has conducted for over 14 years, are an outcome of her on-going professional development action research on self-advocacy of gifted students (Roeper Review, May 2004.)



Ms. Douglas currently lives in Madison, Wisconsin with her husband, Ramon Aldag. Between them they have four talented children and Lily, a wickedly gifted Bichon.

For more information about scheduling a
GT Carpe Diem Workshop
in your community, contact

Deborah Douglas
52 Glen Arbor Way
Fitchburg, WI 53711
920.242.2014
giftedcarpediem@gmail.com
www.gtcarpediem.com

GT Carpe Diem
Seize a day, change a lifetime



Teaching Gifted Teens to Self-Advocate

Self-advocacy is the process of recognizing and meeting the needs specific to your learning ability without compromising the dignity of yourself or others.

There are 4 simple steps:

1. Understand your rights and responsibilities
2. Assess and reflect on your unique learner profile
3. Match your attributes to options and opportunities
4. Connect with advocates who can support your goals



“The future depends on what you do today.”

Mahatma Gandhi

Help your gifted students take charge of their own educations and craft their own unique paths to graduation and beyond.

GT Carpe Diem Workshops empower gifted teens to speak up for themselves through a clearer understanding of their unique needs as outliers and their rights to an appropriately challenging educational experience. Following this day of exploration and reflection they are better able to take charge of their own educations and lives.

Essential Understandings

Gifted students

1. vary in their gifts, talents and interests.
2. require educational opportunities that match their unique needs.
3. can and should play a major role in designing their own paths through the educational system and beyond.

Student attendees

- Reflect on their individual learner profiles
- Recognize similarities with and differences from their gifted peers
- Think about what they'd like to improve regarding their educational path
- Begin a concrete action plan to make changes

Adult advocates

Teachers, gifted education specialists and school counselors also attend and actively engage with students throughout the day, gaining insights into the unique world of gifted teens. They will:

- Spend time getting to better know their students personally
- Learn more about addressing the needs of gifted learners
- Network with other advocates
- Assist students in writing action plans

