

The Programming Diaries



By: Reese Marcus

Name:

TYG:

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Some things to know about me:

Name: Reese Marcus

Birthday: January 10th 2005

Temple Youth Group: BOFTY

School: Spanish River High School

Favorite Color: Blue :))))

Favorite Artist: Quinn XCII

Favorite Foods: Sushi, pizza (only from certain places), bagels, and pretty much any dessert

Favorite Drinks: Iced coffee and Boba

What I do with my free time: SRHS dance team and track, Student government, binge watch shows on Netflix, hanging out with friends, going to the beach, and NFTY!!!

Lets Chat: (social medias)

Instagram: Reesemarcuss

Snapchat: Reeselaurnm

Facebook: Reese Marcus

Tik Tok: ReeseMarcuss (for comedic purposes)

Text/Call me!!: 561-504-2923

Email me: Reesemarcus123@gmail.com or str-pvp@nfty.org (after June 1st!)

About You and your goals:



Some fun/insightful questions:

Why are you involved in your youth group?

Strongest Leadership quality:

Worst Habit:

Biggest strengths/weaknesses?

What do you want to get out of this weekend? How can I help?

Learn the Lingo!

[Created by Elana Treiser](#)
[Adapted from Meghan Mandile](#)

NFTY- North American Federation of Temple Youth

STR- Southern Tropical Region (Our region of NFTY)

URJ- Union of Reform Judaism

TYG- Temple Youth Group

PVP- Programming Vice President (aka Perfect Vice President)

SAVP- Social Action Vice President

CJ- AKA Camp Jenny: NFTY-STR and NFTY-SAR mitzvah project that takes place memorial day weekend at URJ Camp Coleman, and it's an amazing/fulfilling experience!

RCVP- Religious and Cultural Vice President

CVP- Communications Vice President

MVP- Membership Vice President

FVP- Fundraising Vice President (Some TYGs and regions have one, NFTY-STR does not)

PP- Program Participant

GL- Group Leader

PL- Program leader

ProFo- Program format

LLTI- Liz Leadership Training Institute (Where we are right now)

Asefah- The general board meeting that occurs at Winter Regional and Spring Kallah discussing legislation and regional board elections

Netzer Olami- Global reform Jewish teen youth movement

Regbo- Regional board

NAB- North American Board (basically the regional board on a North American level)

NFTY Study Theme- A common topic that all NFTY regions focus on and program towards.

RJ on the Go- The new NFTY virtual programming platform (which we're using today!)

Area Manager- Adult leaders who are in charge of managing the boards of multiple regions (Our area manager is Rabbi Andrew Terkel)

What Kind of Leader are YOU?

Link: 325444

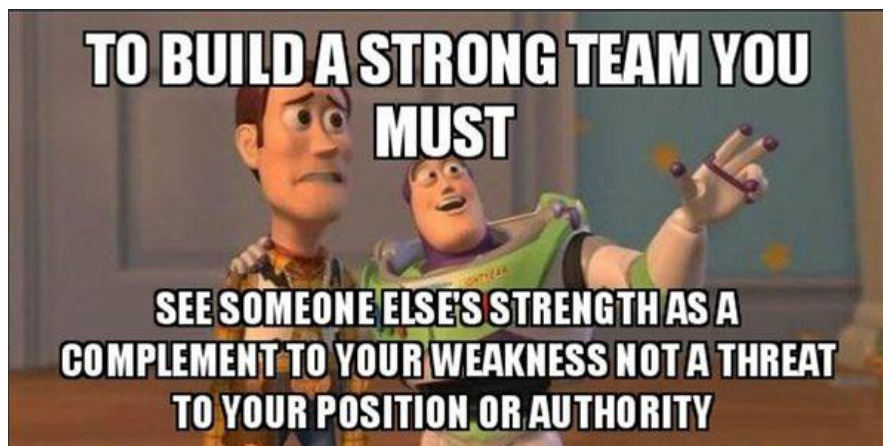
<https://www.skillsyouneed.com/quiz/325444>

What type of leader did you get? What does this mean?

Do you think this accurately describes you? Why or why not?

What areas do you need to improve in? How can you do this?

How can you use this knowledge to help you in the future when you're in a leadership position?



Relationships, relationships, relationships!

TYG Board/committee: While some TYG's have decided to restructure due to a variety of reasons, and may not have a typical "board" anymore, the people that you work with should be and will be your best friends no matter how it's structured! These are the people you can count on and should go to with anything. Always remember that these people are your friends but they're also your board members so don't get upset if someone doesn't like one of your ideas!! They are there to help you and they want the work you do to be the best it can be. These relationships go both ways, so make sure you're always there for these people as well, helping them along the way when they need it. You guys are a team and you must communicate in order to effectively get your work done!!!!

Advisor/Adults (your biggest resource): Your advisor is one of your most important resources as they will always be there for you, and they know how your job works! Some people may be closer to their advisors than others and that's ok!! No matter how close you are, remember they are always there for you, BUT their your adult mentor first and your friend second! You should always be respectful towards them no matter what, and make sure you are in constant communication with these people especially when you have an event or program coming up. Know that they have your best interests at heart but they have also likely been doing this longer than you so listen to their suggestions and take them or speak to them if you disagree!

Programming Network: After your TYG these are YOUR PEOPLE! They are most likely experiencing exactly what you are, so take a look around and keep these people in mind if you're ever feeling stuck and need someone to talk to. I want you guys to connect with each other because you are all great resources, and you should utilize each other! Check in with each other, create friendships, or just chat, this should be a safe place to talk openly and share ideas.

ME!!!: I am always here for you no matter what! I want you guys to reach out to me because I would love to hear about the amazing work I know you all will be doing next year!!! Don't hesitate to reach out whether that's sending me a text or a snapchat whatever you guys want. I also will be checking up on you throughout the year in order to make sure I'm doing whatever I can to make your year a success. Keep me updated!!! I also want to be able to meet with you all at one point to share ideas and learn from each other because programming can be hard sometimes and you may feel that!

NOW LET'S GET INTO IT!!!



Understanding By Design

Created by Michelle Shapiro Abraham

Adapted from Meghan Mandile

There are many steps that go into writing a program whether that's the initial brainstorm, final execution, or anything in between. It's important to understand what you're doing and how to do it! You're a lot more creative than you may think making this process easier than it seems!! Think: is this program just something fun and social or does it have a deeper meaning behind it?

1. Brainstorming: We've all heard at least once that two heads are better than one. To get the ideas flowing, find a partner or group to collaborate with. This could be me, someone in this network, or a member of your TYG. Use one another's strengths to figure out what you want to explore in your program, which will be the backbone of your program.

2. Identify Your Broad Ideas and Goals: Once you know what you want to explore, think of broad topics and a general direction that falls under the umbrella of what you wish to explore. After this is established, begin to formulate your goals you wish to achieve in this program.

3. Choose a Program Type: Some types of programs work better for achieving your desired goals than others. The type of program which you chose is very important to the success of your program. Utilizing different programs types makes programs more interesting for the participant and allows you to constantly switch things!

4. Know Your Audience: The audience you are working with determines how you will best be able to best address the goals and ideas previously established. A program for a JYG event may look different than a program for your senior youth group, and programs on different days of the week may also look different! Always keep this in mind!

5. Planning: Now, it's time to begin writing your program! Use all of the pre-planning and brainstorming to create a strong backbone for your program. While doing so, make sure to keep in mind the goals you set and the direction you want to take. After you're done with the backbone, go back through and fill in the details. Every detail is important, so make sure to include it in the program.

6. Review and Edit: Nobody is perfect on their first try, so we have to go back and revise our work. It is very important to have a trusted adult or peer look over the program for any issue that might arise with the program. An activity may have to be revised with the phrasing of instructions or certain materials switched around. This process may seem tedious, but it is all to make sure your program runs exactly the way you envisioned it.

7. Execute: You did it! Now it's time to execute your Program!! Later on we will talk about tips for group leading and program leading!!!!!!

PROFO (your new best friend)

Profo AKA Program format will become your newest BFF! It is your step by step plan for running a program, and it includes everything you will need to make your program a success. If you can hand your program over to someone without having to explain a thing you've done an amazing job, and that's the whole goal of profo! In order to do this you will use TGOMPSTDA which stands for...

- Touchstone text
- Goals/objectives
- Materials
- People
- Space needed
- Time tables
- Detailed procedure
- Appendices (if needed)



TGOMPSTDA can seem hard to remember so I like to create an acronym to remember it!

For example: Ten Girls On My Plane Started To Dance Around

Now you Try!!!

Let's get into it!

Sample program (Title)

LLTI 2021 (Event where program is taking place)

Saturday, May 22nd, 2021 (Date)

By Reese Marcus (Author(s))

NFTY STR PVP Elect 5781 - 5782 (Position if applicable)

TouchStone Text:

Knowledge is like the sun - -it dispels all darkness.

-Yehuda Leib Gordon

The touchstone text is a piece of Jewish text, such as a quote or line of Torah that relates back to the objectives of the program. Since NFTY is a Jewish movement, it is important to include Jewish aspects into programming to strengthen the participants' feelings of the activity. This quote can really be whatever you want it to be!

Goals:

- These are the long term goals that you want to accomplish
- They are typically hard to truly measure and that is ok!
- For example: "Participants will gain a greater understanding of programming"

Objectives:

- These are similar to goals BUT they should be straightforward and easily achievable as they SHOULD be measurable
- This is what you want participants to accomplish by the end of the program
- For example: "By the end of the program, participants will be able to effectively write a program"

The biggest difference between goals and objectives is that goals should be long term and objectives should be short term! A goal you create may not be achieved for months, but objectives should be achieved by the end of the program. Objectives allow for goals to be completed!

Materials:

- 10 copies of colored construction paper
- 3 boxes of multicolored markers
- 4 copies of appendix A
- 5 sharpies

Be specific!!!! Even if you think the location of the program already has all of these things, list them because you NEVER KNOW!! Make sure you include handouts, specific colors, writing utensils, etc.

People:

- 1 PL
- 3 GL
- 30 PP's (10 per group)

Any people necessary to your program. Don't forget, program leaders, group leaders, program participants, and adult leaders.

Space Needed:

- Sanctuary
- Teen Lounge

Your space needed is any space necessary for your program including breakout spaces and rain locations. We live in Florida, always have a backup rain location!!!!

Time Table:

00:00-00:10 Introduction

00:10-00:15 Break into Groups

00:15-00:35 Activity A

00:35-00:50 Group Discussion

00:50-00:55 Transition Time

00:55-01:00 Wrap up

This is your timeline of what needs to happen when, this will be used to make sure you don't fall behind!

00:00-00:10 Introduction

PP's will sit in the sanctuary facing the PL on the bimah. PL will quiet the room, and then begin the program. PL will say "Welcome to this program. Please look on the back of your nametag and find your location."

00:10-00:15 Break Into Groups

PPs will now go to the breakout location assigned on their nametags.

00:15-00:35 Activity A

GLs will give each PP a crossword puzzle and word search (Appendix A).

00:35-00:50 Group Discussion

GL will lead discussion about Activity A based on questions below. (Insert questions here)

00:50-00:55 Transition Time

PPs will transition back to the sanctuary where they will be asked to sit like they did at the beginning of the program.

00:55-01:00 Wrap Up

PL will say "Thank you all for participating in my program."

Appendices:

The appendices are any additional material not included in the detailed procedure. Examples include GL lists, documents, and media. All appendices must be separated with a page break.

How To Lead a Program

Program leading:

As a program leader or PL it will be your job to make sure that everything runs smoothly during the execution of a program. It will also be your job to pick appropriate group leaders (GL's) if needed for a specific program. You want to make sure the people you choose are responsible and reliable so you don't have to worry about your program being executed correctly later on. If you will be running the program on your own make sure you speak to all participants clearly in order to allow them to get as much as they can from a program!

Group Leaders:

After selecting your group leaders, if necessary, you will be tasked with making sure they know what they are doing!!!! This is your responsibility. The best way of making sure this is the case before an event is by going through the program with these group leaders in advance and allowing them to ask any questions they may have. One of the best ways to do this is by holding a groupleading call a few days before the event! These group leaders should also be able to understand the program as much as possible by simply reading through it! If you are tasked with group leading on a regional level these same steps will occur, and I want you all to feel free to ask questions!



Matt Kesslers Lovely List of Program ideas

Adapted from Meghan Mandile

Below is a list of program ideas compiled by the 2013-2014 NFTY STR PVP, Matt Kessler to provide some guidance if you are feeling stuck or can't think of a program idea. You can include one or more of these ideas but don't feel limited by them! You can do whatever you want with your programs

- **Speaker**- Invite a speaker to come and give a presentation to your TYG. Make sure you communicate with the speaker beforehand to let them know their time frame, and ensure that the speaker's plan is appropriate to the situation.
- **Discussion**- Have PPs discuss pre-written questions. GLs should help guide the discussion and are not limited to the questions provided. When writing a discussion program component, keep your time frame and audience in mind. Some PPs may find discussions boring if they are too long.
- **Trial**- Run a program like a courtroom, formal debate, etc.
- **Panel Discussion**- Create a panel of experts with invited guests or knowledgeable PLs for PPs to ask questions about a subject. (Remember to follow the same guidelines as a speaker when working with invited guests)
- **Four Corners**- Designate 4 corners of a room to opinions on a certain issue. PPs pick a stance on the issue and then discuss their choice.
- **5 Senses**- PPs are put in a situation/activity that stimulates or inhibits one (or more) of their senses.
- **Competition**- PPs complete a task in a competitive matter. Use competition as a means of motivation.
- **Games**- Play games and apply them to a programmatic situation with a goal for each game played.
- **Skits**- Divide PPs into groups and provide them with situations to act out. Skits are a great way to encourage PPs to think about a topic in a more personal way.
- **Carousel**- Create multiple rotations for PPs to participate in. Rotations allow for more topics to be covered in a single program as well as provide a way to explore different aspects of a topic.
- **Simulation**- Put PPs through a simulation of a certain situation. Situations can differ in complexity and seriousness, and allow for PPs to be put directly in a situation being discussed.
- **Fishbowl**- PPs are divided into an inner and outer circle. The inner group discusses a topic while the outer group observes and listens. Switch groups during the program to allow all PPs to both speak and observe and to obtain different perspectives on the topic.
- **Choose Your Own Adventure**- PPs are presented with multiple options on how to proceed through the program. Different choices will guide PPs into different outcomes. This style can sometimes be difficult to create because you need to make sure there is an outcome for each decision made.

FeedBack (one of the most important parts of programming)

Created By Elana Trieser

Adapted from Sam Fetgatter

One of the most important parts of running a successful program, except for, of course executing it, is gaining feedback so you're able to find out what went well and what didn't. Gaining feedback can mean whatever you want it to, but it's definitely important to give people the chance to speak their minds and share their thoughts with you so you can make your future programs that much better. There's a variety of ways to do this including...

- ★ **Informal:** This type of debriefing allows for a comfortable discussion between participants, group leaders, and advisors alike. It's an open forum to express opinions on a program.
- ★ **Formal:** An anonymous survey is the best way to get genuine, reliable results. A participant or adult will feel comfortable sharing their opinion without fear of being judged or making the creator of the program feel bad. You can format the survey however you want, as long as the questions are genuine and are aimed at receiving meaningful feedback. This could be rating things on a numbered scale, open ended questions, or even yes-or-no questions.
- ★ **Suggestion Box:** Much like the shout out box, a suggestion box is an informal, open-ended place where participants and adults can leave anonymous comments about the program. This could also be a place where suggestions for the future can be made, such as for future activities or materials.
- ★ **Online:** Create online polls and surveys through online services such as google forms, SurveyMonkey, Instagram, and Facebook to receive feedback from participants and adults alike.



Tips and Tricks

- ★ Always BE FLEXIBLE- not everything is going to go as planned and THAT'S OK!! Go with the flow and be open to making adjustments
- ★ Know your audience and cater to them, middle school programs and high school programs will not be the same! Understand that and gear your programming towards the age group your event will be for.
- ★ Know your program: you should know every aspect of your program and what should be happening when. Make sure you consistently review over your program in order to make it a success!
- ★ Don't panic: if people see the program leader panicking that will cause them to panic and feel as if something has gone wrong. Stay calm and always remember everything will work out in the end.
- ★ Detail is key: this is something that has been repeated multiple times and this is because it's so important. Being detailed with your programs will help you in the end TRUST ME!!!
- ★ ALWAYS COMMUNICATE with your board and those helping you with the program. Nobody will know what you need unless you tell them!!!
- ★ Last but not least: HAVE FUN- this is youth group, you should be enjoying yourself. Just keep calm and have fun because you deserve it after working so hard!



Wrap Up!



What are some things you learned this weekend?

What are some programs/ideas you hope to take back to your TYG?

How will you go on to work with others in a way that is effective?

What are your goals for the upcoming year for both yourself and your TYG?

Extra Resources :)))

Contact information:

Phone #: 561-504-2923

Email: Reesemarcus123@gmail.com or str-pvp@nfty.org (after june 1st!)

NFTY-STR contact info:

NFTY-STR Contact Information

President: str-president@nfty.org

Social Action Vice President: str-savp@nfty.org

Religious and Cultural Vice President: str-rcvp@nfty.org

Communications Vice President: str-cvp@nfty.org

Membership Vice President: str-mvp@nfty.org

NFTY-STR Social Media

Instagram: @ nfty_str

Twitter: @nfty_str

Facebook: NFTY STR

NFTY Resources:

NFTY Program Bank: <http://www.nfty.org/resources/programbank>

NFTY Programming Information:

<https://nfty.org/resources/youth-group-administration/programming/>

Touchstone Text Resources!!:

Jewish-Wisdom.com

Quotationspage.com/quotes/the_talmud

The End