

**CHAPTER 36 DRAFT BLUEPRINT:
ADULT YOUR VOICE**

Finding and growing your voice is a continuous journey, just like thought leadership is. It's about using your voice to create positive change and influence others, whether you're advocating for personal or collective causes. Your voice is a powerful tool for making a difference in the world.



ACCESS (REFLECT)

Create a list of 3-5 topics you feel strongly about. This may be processes you would like changed, people you would like promoted, or principles that you would want integrated. Spend a few minutes with each topic to explore why it is that you feel so strongly. It helps to think about your personal connection to the topic.

- 1.....
- 2.....
- 3.....
- 4.....

DEVELOP (THE NARRATIVE)

Choose the topic from your list that is most interesting and/or most relevant to you or your work. Remember, this is an iterative process, so I encourage you to come back to this as often as you like.

TOPIC:

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What I understand

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What I don't understand

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.....

What resources exist for you to better understand the topic?
(e.g., articles, podcasts, people, situations, opportunities)

Resource

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.....

How I plan to access it

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.....

Who can be allies to bring about the change I am advocating for?

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.....

Once you've had a chance to explore the topic in depth, ask yourself, "What do I find most compelling about what I've seen, read, learned, understood?"

USE (TAKE SMALL STEPS FORWARD)

Use this space to log each of the small steps you take to explore your voice. For example, "I shared my perspective for the first time in my team meeting." Or, "I volunteered to give this year's progress update to the regional team."

Date.....

Opportunity

(One small step for me, one giant leap for my voice.)

LEND (YOUR VOICE TO THE TOPIC)

As you grow more comfortable using your voice more frequently, it's time to

advocate for your topic! Think through opportunities you’ve noticed as you’ve been observing and practicing. Where would you like to share your unique perspective? In what ways do you think it may have the greatest impact?

For example, you may have a passion around incorporating more sustainable practices into your work environment, “I am wondering if we should consider occupancy-based lighting in our office area to reduce energy consumption?” or, “I am wondering if we can use larger water containers instead of individual plastic bottles at the next company event?”

What are other opportunities to lend your voice?

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How might you create new opportunities?

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TRANSCEND (UNDERSTAND MORE OF WHO YOU ARE)

I also encourage you to set a calendar item for 4-6 weeks from today, you can call it “How’s My Voice Doing?” In the description, remind yourself to come back to this page and check in.

Cue the Qs

- *How has my voice developed through this process?*
- *What is working for me and what is not?*
- *How has my understanding of the topic shifted?*
- *How can I extend my advocacy efforts?*
- *How can I engage with broader audiences, attend relevant events, or connect with organizations or communities that align with my passions?*
- *How can I transcend boundaries to amplify my voice?*
- *How can I ask for feedback?*

In a world that increasingly values communication, advocacy, leadership, and lasting influence, developing your voice also becomes a means to bolstering a personal brand, spotlighting your efforts, and achieving your goals.

So, if you ever wonder why you should develop your voice, remember that it’s not just about you; it’s about the positive impact you can also have on the world around you.