

Supporting the Voices of Shy & Quiet Students

This document has been developed by the Quaglia Institute, offering various resources and strategies designed to assist teachers and schools in supporting the voices of all students, particularly those that may be shy and/or quiet. The links on the following pages are intended to support creating environments where students can feel comfortable with who they are, their surroundings, and their peers. The goal is to provide a positive place where students can express who they are without judgement, and ultimately to support them in understanding the power of their voice.

Shy vs Quiet		
	More Information Online WWW.DIFFERENCEBETWEEN.COM	
	Shy	Quiet
DEFINITION	Shy means being nervous or timid in the company of others	Quiet means not making much talk and being calm
BEHAVIOUR	Will be anxious and uncomfortable around others	Prefer to talk less
INTERACTIONS WITH OTHERS	May blush or stammer when talking to strangers	Have no problem interacting with others
IN A DISCUSSION	May want to voice his/her opinions, but may remain silent due to criticism, rejection or negative response	Comfortable with being silent and observant

<https://www.differencebetween.com/difference-between-shy-and-quiet/>

[The Power of Introverts](#): Susan Cain's TED Talk, *The Power of Introverts*, argues that introverts bring extraordinary talents and abilities to the world, and should be encouraged and celebrated.

[Encouraging Introverts to Speak Up in School](#): "In my sixth year of teaching, a student challenged this practice. He wrote me a note that read, "Don't let me get away with being too quiet. Make me talk even if it's hard for me. You ask loud kids to stop interrupting and blurting out, right? So ask me to speak up, please." Tailor class participation requirements so that introverts and extroverts alike can thrive.

[Voice21 The Listening Ladder](#): Use the "Listening Ladder" as a tool for praise and celebrate the strengths of students who might find other aspects of speaking out loud challenging.

[How to Help Shy Students Make their Voices Heard](#): We all know that student, the one who sits in the back and never raises their hand and mumbles quietly when called upon by the teacher. Sometimes being shy can inhibit a student from really engaging in classroom activities.

[Eight Ways to Encourage Student Voice](#): "Often there were times in class when I knew the answer, but I would sink down in my seat and not make eye contact for fear of being called upon. Literary texts would reference social situations that I was not familiar with, and my immigrant parents were also at a loss as to how to help me. I was outspoken and social on the playground, but in the classroom, I didn't want to, or even feel like I could, fail in front of others for fear of not being popular or being made fun of or, worse, disappointing my parents who sacrificed so much to be here.

[10 Simple Ways to Engage Quiet Students](#): You've just asked one of the most thought-provoking questions of your teaching career, and you look out upon a sea of faces with anticipation. Fully expecting students to exude wonder and curiosity, you disappointingly realize...they're tuned out. Or are they? Trying to engage quiet students can be tricky!

[Give Students a Voice, Even if They are Afraid to Talk](#): A lot of educators are beginning to rethink the concept of student voice. At the heart of that discovery: finding new ways for students to express their views, both in and out of class.

[The Case for Quiet Kids: Helping Introverts Get Heard in the Classroom](#): "Being quiet, it seems, is regarded as a deficit that needs to be pointed out and fixed. Throughout the years, few teachers bothered asking my son why he was so quiet and hesitant to share his thoughts. It wasn't until his fourth-grade year when a teacher helped him come out of his shell. What made this teacher special? He took the time to talk with my son and get to know him personally, despite the fact he was quiet. He made an effort to find ways for him to contribute without being the center of attention."

[How to Deal with Shy Students in the English Class](#): As teachers, we need to encourage the shy student and help them overcome their awkwardness in class. We need to help them so they can have a little more belief and faith in themselves at the end of every lesson.

[7 Ways to Help Quiet Students Find Their Voices in Class](#): When it comes to talking in class, each student has a unique personality. There are the chatty conversationalists, happy to contribute on any topic; more reserved students who can be coaxed into the conversation with some effort; and the quiet ones who shudder at the thought of speaking to a large group. Explore these thoughtful ways to encourage reluctant talkers to take part in classroom conversations.

[7 Strategies to Encourage the Quietest Students to Have a Voice](#): It's our privilege and responsibility to continually try to reach every student and let them know their voice matters. And it's incredibly rewarding when we see the results of our efforts. So how can we engage our quietest students?

[9 Strategies for Getting More Students to Talk](#): A State Teacher of the Year shares her techniques for increasing the number of students who talk and share their ideas in class.

[Encouraging Students to Participate: How to Help Shy Students Speak Up](#): Putting a shy, introverted student on the spot in class, and begging them to participate, can be traumatic and most likely won't achieve the outcome you're looking for. So how can you get these students talking?

[Establishing a Culture of Student Voice](#): By co-developing classroom norms and practicing reflection and feedback, you create a culture where students want to be included because their voice matters.

[10 Ways Teachers Can Support Shy Students](#): As a teacher, shy students can present a real challenge. You want to support every child in the classroom, but you know you have to walk a fine line when attempting to draw them out and encouraging participation.

[8 Ways to Empower Student Voice in Your Classroom](#): While many schools have student governments with the intention of giving students a voice, it is often only a few students who participate. Angela Maiers argues that giving all students a voice is something that doesn't have to be a big organizational shift. In fact, Maiers says, it's better if hearing students is just part of our everyday expectation.

[ColoredCups](#): Using the cup system allows the teacher to gauge student understanding without embarrassing students.

[Are You Having Fun?](#): Teacher Suzy Ghosh shares how she tries to make school days more fun. Are your students having fun?

[An Approach for Helping Quiet Students Find Their Voices](#): Quiet students are defined as those who do not speak in class or who speak seldom and, when they do, they do so with great difficulty due to anxiety and/or lack of confidence. Another Way to Say It, Another Way to See It. This approach provides an opportunity for quieter students to express their thoughts and ideas with written contributions.

What strategies/resources would you add?