

# ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING CARING COMMUNITIES SINCE 1992  
London, Ontario, Canada  
[andypresentations.com](http://andypresentations.com)

School Activity Ideas In One Minute Videos  
on TikTok at [@andyimpactspeaker](https://www.tiktok.com/@andyimpactspeaker)



## MIDDLE & HIGH SCHOOL PRESENTATIONS

My name is Andy Thibodeau and I am a professional IMPACT speaker specializing in school assemblies, student leadership workshops, Careers Skills Training, and School Staff Appreciation and Inspiration. I am based in my hometown of London, Ontario, located a two-hour drive east of Detroit, a two-hour drive west of Buffalo. I have my E1 USA work VISA that has allowed me to work in your great nation since 1996!

Since 1992 I have delivered thousands of fun inspirational presentations to schools and conferences across North America. It has been a privilege to share my message of “Make Care Contagious” to over two million people in all 10 provinces and 40 US states. In 2023 to 2024 I am back to delivering 25 presentations a month in the seven busy months of the school calendar.

My hilarious and high energy IMPACT presentations remind students that school is about balancing “learning, fun and community service”. My programs empower young leaders to be an example of care and good decisions for others to follow.

My two daughters are now in 11<sup>th</sup> grade and a freshman in university here in London. I bring a unique angle to my high school assemblies based on their experiences and my own. I am a rare presenter who is equally comfortable in front of a grades 1-4 audience as I am grades 5 to 12, college and teachers! My skills as an educator kept me busy in 2022 for 50 days as a substitute teacher with my local School Board! Since the spring of 2022 I am back to being a full time IMPACT speaker, leadership training, and children’s entertainer!

## HOW CAN I HELP YOU TO CREATE CARING COMMUNITY?

My IMPACT assemblies, leadership workshops for students, appreciation and training sessions for staff, and career-preparation programs CAN help you and your community as you look to:

- **Promote Inclusion and Community.**
- **Build School Spirit and Increased Enthusiasm for Student Activities.**
- **Encourage Mental Health and Well Being with Grit and Perseverance!**
- **Deliver Fun, Community-building, and Energy to a pep rally, assembly, or retreat.**
- **Complement your messages of Academic Excellence and Effort.**
- **Train your student leaders on creating events and activities that “Make Care Contagious”.**
- **Inspire your Co-Op/ Trades classes with Workplace training to complement your curriculum.**
- **Empower students for success in college and beyond!**
- **Share Appreciation and Encouragement to your School Staff.**

## WHY HAVE I MADE A 32-YEAR COMMITMENT TO ENCOURAGING STUDENTS?

I was called “Mr. School Spirit” by King’s College at Western university’s magazine when I joined just 26 people as an Alumni of Distinction of my school in 2014. This passion for leadership and school spirit started in 8<sup>th</sup> grade when I broke out of my “shell of shyness” and became student council Vice President at Nicholas Wilson elementary school. This led to becoming student council president at Laurier Secondary school and the orientation coordinator in university. I loved my school experiences and I wanted to make a lifelong commitment to create caring communities for students to have the opportunities that I had.

Sharing my journey of being a shy 6<sup>th</sup> grader to a confident high schooler empowers my audience with tools and encouragement to find the strength to “Get Your Hand UP!”, “Share Your Care” and “Make Care Contagious”. From the stage I tell my story with compassion, humour, and high-energy participation.

## REFERENCES FROM MICHIGAN IN 2022 TO 2024

**St. Clair HS in Michigan** for their senior breakfast and then a sophomore and freshmen assembly. Mark Eberhard, every year from 2000 to 2022!

**Churchill HS, Livonia, Michigan.** for a half day student leadership retreat based on my Reliability program. Paul Mercier, for a second time. [pmercier@livoniapublicschools.org](mailto:pmercier@livoniapublicschools.org)

**Midland HS, Midland, MI.** Two Full days. November 2023. My second visit since 2016. One day, 90 minutes with the school staff, two hours with the student leaders. Second day, two assemblies and visiting two classrooms. Arranged by Activities Coordinator Monique Albright and Assistant Principals Matt Wenzell and Andrea Jozwiak. [albrightmr@midlandps.org](mailto:albrightmr@midlandps.org)

**Lake Orion HS, Michigan and the Oakland Country Activity Association (OAA).** Lora Hogan [Lora.Hogan@lok12.org](mailto:Lora.Hogan@lok12.org), Activities Advisor, has booked me 15 times at her school for freshmen assemblies, student leadership workshops, and 4 times as the speaker at the annual one-day conference for student leaders for the schools in Oakland county, including December 2023. September 2024, a full day speaking to their leadership classes and student government.

**Three Lakes Academy, Curtis, Upper Peninsula, Michigan. 2023** Used a portion of their Mental Health Grant to have me deliver a full day program at their elementary school in May 2023. A grades K to 3 assembly, a grades 4 – 6 assembly, a student leadership retreat for the afternoon with classroom visits, a short after school staff program. The day was organized by Janet Linck [jlinck@eupschools.org](mailto:jlinck@eupschools.org) and Principal Rachel Bommarito. [rbommarito@eupschools.org](mailto:rbommarito@eupschools.org)

**Tahquamenon School District, Newberry, Upper Peninsula Michigan. 1999, 2019, 2023.** To speak at the HS, Middle School and Elementary! A full day where I delivered one assembly for each of their schools, all located in the same historic building, in the same gorgeous auditorium. I also shared my insights for an hour with the student leaders. What a phenomenal day with energetic and appreciative audiences! Superintendent Stacy Price, Principals Trevor Clark, Kendra Feldhusen, and leadership advisor Deb Canfield, Cindy Kidd, Brooke Neeb. [sprice@taschools.org](mailto:sprice@taschools.org) and [dcanfield@taschools.org](mailto:dcanfield@taschools.org)

## ANDY'S IMPACT ASSEMBLIES – Summary

*Memorable presentations of Laughter, High Energy, School Spirit, and Encouragement. Assemblies are flexible from 45 to 90 minutes.*

- **“Get Your Hand UP!”** Fight the fear of failure and be the student that answers questions, asks questions and volunteers. School is about balancing learning and having fun! Keep your grade 2 “Pick me, Pick me” attitude!
- **“Share your Care”** Care about yourself, your friends, family, and school the same way some people care about their favorite teams or performers. My top 3 examples of care: Show up. Participate. Listen.
- **“Get Your Hand UP SENIORS!”** A special 12<sup>th</sup> grade focused version of my program, focusing on enjoying the final year of school, being an example of leadership for the younger grades, and successfully preparing for life after high school. Perfect for retreats and second semester visits.
- **“Get Your Hand UP” – Careers Class/ Workplace Training** A special version of my “Get Your Hand UP” program, with a focus on matching my insights with workplace examples. A fantastic complement to your career’s class curriculum or training students in your Trades or Workplace Preparation programs.
- **“Initiate Inclusion by Invitation” – Andy’s Three “I’s” of Building Community.** My definition of INCLUSION – “Seeing differences, without seeing the difference.” For 10 months in 2018-19, my family had three young women from Congo live with us until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being “Uncle Andrew” to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. This inspiring program offers perspective on the following challenges: How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

## ANDY'S IMPACT WORKSHOPS - Summary

*Inspiring Leadership Training that is Educational, Interactive, and Habit Changing. Workshops are flexible from 30 minutes to 90 minutes or can be combined to create a half-day leadership retreat.*

- **“Making Care Contagious!”** A powerful program that can run from 1 to 3 hours on improving communication, handling rejection and negativity, and promoting good decisions and involvement!
- **“Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others”** Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for young people in organizing themselves and leading others. This session will immediately improve the ability of the participants to work together and improve their organization skills. For staff & students!
- **“The Impact of Educators.”** My hilarious 30 to 60 minute after-school program to inspire and entertain your staff. Also available as a one-to-two-hour Professional Development session!

- ***Co-Op/ Trades Classes / Business Class/Careers Class/Workplace Training Workshops Versions of my Presentations, “Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability” and “Initiating Inclusion by Invitation”.*** Have teachers sign up and bring together several classes to participate in my workshops as part of your leadership, business, trades, or careers curriculum! I have created workplace preparation versions of my Leadership Programs, with presentation lengths from one or two periods for a half day or four periods for a full day. It includes insights from my three very different jobs I had in 2020 to 2022 during the pandemic: Costco; Health Unit Vaccine Clinic; Supply teacher for all grades.

**The most unique quality of my assembly is that your school’s events, activities, and accomplishments are incorporated into the presentation. I will promote upcoming activities while offering recognition and praise for past events. Money spent on my programs can be considered an investment in more successful future activities! Plus, your leadership groups and their advisors will appreciate a speaker that mentions their accomplishments!**

## **ANDY’S OPTIONS FOR HIS VISIT – HALF DAY OR A FULL DAY**

### **HALF DAY OPTION**

A half day with me includes TWO presentations of 45-90 minutes each. You have the following choices:

- Two assemblies: Dividing the school in half OR speaking to two different grades.
- Two assemblies: younger grades, followed by a grade 12 only assembly
- One assembly followed by a student leadership workshop.
- Leadership Retreat: A two to three-hour student leadership program, catered to your needs, using my “Making Care Contagious” and “Can I Count on You?” workshops.
- Trades / Co-op / Business Class / Careers Class/ Workplace Program Retreat: A one or two period work skills training program to compliment your class curriculum, catered to your needs based on my “Get Your Hand UP”, “Can I Count on You?” and/or “Initiating Inclusion” presentations.

A third presentation may be possible with a morning booking by adding a workshop for the leaders over lunch, providing that my afternoon schedule allows it.

The afternoon school always gets a free after school program: either a staff meeting or student workshop.

### **FULL DAY OPTION**

A full day program could include up to 4 assemblies, a 2 to 3-hour student leadership program, and an after-school teacher’s program.

I could also deliver presentations to individual classrooms for up to four periods.

The day’s schedule is completely adjustable to your needs.

USA School examples:

**Lancaster High School** near Buffalo had me deliver an assembly to the freshmen in the morning and three student leadership workshops to 3 different classes.

**Leland Schools, Michigan**, a K-12 building, had me deliver 5 assemblies and a leaders' workshop to reach all grades as part of a student wellness event. The grades 1-5 assembly was 50 minutes, the middle school assembly was an hour, and the high school had a rotation of assemblies for their students.

**Batavia HS & MS**, east of Buffalo, had me speak to the high school in the morning for an assembly followed by a leadership workshop. I then spoke to the middle school in the afternoon for an assembly followed by a leadership workshop for the middle school leaders. After school staff program.

**Adlai Stevenson High School**, Utica in suburban Detroit and Medina High School, suburban Cleveland also booked full days with two assemblies and afternoon student leadership retreats.

**Workplace Skills Training.** I have created versions of three of my Leadership Programs for workplace training, with presentation lengths from 60 minutes to a half day or full day retreat. See below. ***"Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability" and "Initiating Inclusion by Invitation"***.

## ANDY'S ENERGY – SCHOOL SPIRIT, CHEERS, AND SONG VIDEO EXAMPLES

You know my assemblies make an IMPACT when I can get the students up at the end of the program and get them to participate with enthusiasm and yell their mascot with pride! Check out this seven minute video of short school spirit clips from 2022-23 at 6 American Schools and Conferences!

[Andy's Energy at USA Schools and Conferences - 7 minute Video](#)

**A Unique Feature of Andy's Assemblies:** Your activities and school character are incorporated into each program, promoting your events to increase participation. Andy will ask for a list of your activities before the speech and will include these examples throughout his presentations. Money invested in Andy's assembly is returned through better fundraising and event participation after he leaves!

My website has a detailed look at my programs. It is also below.

[www.andypresentations.com](http://www.andypresentations.com) including video of my assemblies, icebreakers, and leadership programs.

## SCHOOL STAFF PROGRAMS

A school staff summary video from the fall of 2023 when Andy delivered a one hour professional development for Midland High School in Michigan.

[Andy's School Staff Program - The Impact of Educators - 11 minutes from Midland HS in 2023](#)

Teachers and support staff love Andy's energizers. This is a school staff example from a 90 minute program for the staff of five London, Ontario elementary schools. It included this phenomenal energizer activity with the 300+ participants, called "Ohh Ahh Orchestra."

[Andy on YouTube: Ohh Ahh Orchestra with School Staff at a Nov 2022 Event](#)

Andy received this email after this event:

**November 22, 2022**

*Thank you so much for sharing your time and talent with us on Friday morning. Our staff left the session feeling uplifted and ready to take on the world. It was exactly what they needed, thank you! We look forward to booking you to come speak to all of our students in the new year!*

Erin Debicki, VP, St. Nicholas Catholic School, London 519-675-4409 [edebicki@ldcsb.ca](mailto:edebicki@ldcsb.ca)

## ANDY'S PRESENTATIONS – A DETAILED REVIEW OF CONTENT

### IMPACTING SCHOOL ASSEMBLIES

Andy offers schools three completely different assembly programs, the length of each is flexible from 45 to 90 minutes. All assemblies use high energy comedy, stories, and interactive cheers to keep your students laughing and listening.

**A Unique Feature of Andy's Assemblies:** Your activities and school character are incorporated into each program, promoting your events to increase participation. Andy will ask for a list of your activities before the speech and will include these examples throughout his presentations. Money invested in Andy's assembly is returned through better fundraising and event participation after he leaves!

#### 1. "Get Your Hand Up" - School Assembly for grades 6-12

School is about Learning AND having fun. Do that by getting your hand UP! Answer Questions. Ask Questions. Volunteer. Get involved in the classroom and in the activities of your school!

On the first day of high school, Andy was 6 foot and 115 pounds. His #1 enemy ... the wind! He tried out for the Junior football team and on the second day of school Andy experienced the failure of being cut. This hilarious and inspiring program encourages your students to have an attitude of "Pick Me, Pick Me"!

This powerful assembly will entertain and inspire your students by encouraging them to bring back their grade two enthusiasm and "get their hand up". In the classroom, ask questions, answer the teacher, and try your best. In school and life, volunteer and get involved in all the great activities.

Why don't students "Get Their Hand Up?" The fear of failure: the fear of being wrong in front of friends. You might give a wrong answer, ask a "stupid" question, learn that your best is not as good as others, or volunteer to get involved and yet get cut from a team or play. Andy challenges youth to bring back their grade 2 "recess attitude" which says that although I will make mistakes and get things wrong at times, I will put my hand back up and try again.

#### 2. "Get Your Hand Up GRADS" – Seniors only Assembly

Andy has created a special version of his "Get your hand up" that is perfect for grade 12 assemblies or grad retreats. With examples from students who were bound for university, community college, the trades or the

workforce, Andy uses powerful stories, workplace insights and hilarious comedy to inspire, empower and entertain.

When booking Andy after February 1<sup>st</sup>, please consider a separate assembly for your grads to help prepare them for the final months of high school and life after graduation.

This grads-only presentation can run from 45 to 90 minutes. It is also available as a two-hour retreat or a full day program.

### 3. **“Share Your Care” - School Assembly for grades 1 to 12**

Andy’s Top 3 ways to care: #3 - Show Up! #2 - Participate! #1 – Listen!

Andy challenges your students to care about their friends, family, and school the same way they care for strangers who are their favourite performers, internet “stars” and professional athletes. His Top 3 examples of care: Show Up – to class, to practice, to work, to special events; Participate – cheer, dress up, put your hand up in class, dance, laugh, be part of the fundraiser; Listen – ask questions of your classmates and listen to the answers. Create inclusion by asking your classmates and friends questions and truly listening to their answers!

What are the rewards of care? It’s fun! Fun fills your day and life with great memories. Care changes the world! Your acts of care can brighten someone’s day, add to a fundraising total, brings energy to a dance, or feed a person through a school food drive! It changes YOU! You enjoy school more, leading to a better experience in class and building a community of CARE in your school.

“Share Your Care” is about balancing learning with having fun. Dress up for the spirit day while having your hand up in class to answer questions. Hand in your project on time and then attend a fun after school event.

Andy’s version for grades 5 to 12 ends with this story: In grade 10<sup>th</sup> grade English, Andy was asked to draw an image and write a description of “the most important moment of your life, so far.” The drawing was set in June of grade 7. How does the image tie into what led him to run for grade 8 student council vice president? Why did this action change EVERYTHING about the direction of his life? This moving and comedic story about self-confidence, sharing your gifts and compassion will have everyone in your audience relating to Andy’s journey from shy 6<sup>th</sup> grader to confident high school grad and student body president.

Themes of Community Service, Inclusion, Kindness, School Spirit, Self-Confidence, Bullying Awareness are woven into the program.

Andy also has a version of this assembly for grades 1 to 5 which lasts 45 minutes and has your students up every 10 minutes for a high energy chant or song to build on his messages of participation and caring!

## **INSPIRING LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS**

### 1. **“Making Care Contagious” – Andy’s Student Leadership Workshop**

School Spirit is caring, but how do leaders make this care contagious? This presentation draws from Andy’s experiences as a student leader and as a speaker traveling North America. He has developed 5 Habits that form the core of all successful student leadership activities. This hilarious and high-energy workshop gives hands-on advice on handling negativity; dealing with rejection; having the courage to be an example of good

decisions; effective appreciation; communicating care; and improving event promotion and attendance. Follow Andy's 5 Habits to "get your care, out there!"

The session includes games and activities that can be shared with your school at your next meeting or assembly. Schools that book Andy's workshop get a free copy of the handbook for this program.

This workshop for grades 6 to 12 can run from 45 minutes to 90 minutes. It is also frequently used as a leadership retreat for 2 to 3 hours. Andy can deliver this as the follow up to his school assembly or as a stand-alone leadership event for your school or a group of schools. The program will also empower student council advisors and leadership teachers who are encouraged to participate in this session.

## **2. "Can I Count on You?" – Improving Your Reliability to Lead Yourself and Others**

Execution of ideas is the number one challenge for young leaders. This session will immediately improve the ability of the participants to improve their reliability, teamwork, and organization skills.

This session addresses the concepts of time management from a unique perspective. Trust is the foundation for loving families, fun friendships, spirited students' councils, successful businesses, and effective leaders. Yet people earn the trust of another by being reliable. Andy offers useful and immediately applicable advice for improving reliability. Through his insights, Andy demonstrates how increased reliability improves one's time management, decreases stress, creates successful events, and inspires TRUST in leaders!

With all students and teachers balancing their time between school, family and work commitments, this program can transform how you and your team organizes their priorities!

This program is flexible from 45 minutes to 2 hours.

## **3. "The Impact of Educators" – An Appreciation Keynote or Workshop for School Staff**

Andy is the teaching profession's #1 fan because of the difference teachers have made in his life. It also helps that the mother of his children is a high school French & Computers teacher and that he was a Supply teacher for all grades for 53 days in the first half of 2022! This program is an empowering reminder to school staff about the difference they make with youth.

All school staff are welcome to attend! Support staff, Office Staff, custodial. There is something for everyone!

In October of grade 9, Andy received a letter from his high school's track and field coach "recruiting" him to be part of the team. That letter changed his life. Expect tears of laughter and powerful reflection as Andy shares the lessons he learned from Coach Young and his efforts to connect with students.

When booking Andy for your school, consider organizing an after-school staff meeting so he can share this powerful program. Its length is flexible to your needs, from 20 minutes to 1 hour.

It is also frequently booked as a keynote or training session for Professional Development days or Teacher or Administrator conferences. The program in this format can run from 1 to 2 hours, with teambuilding activities and additional instruction.



#### 4. **Careers Class / Business Class / Leadership Class / Workplace Training Versions of Andy's Presentations: "Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count on You? Improving your Reliability" and "Initiating Inclusion by Invitation".**

Looking for a high-energy, interactive, and educational method for your Leadership/Careers/Business Class or Trades and Work skills students to get workplace skills and leadership training to complement your curriculum?

Andy has developed workplace skills versions of three of his presentations, "Get Your Hand UP", "Can I Count On You?" and "Initiating Inclusion". Presentations length can be: One Period, Two Periods, or a full day. Any size of audience. Programs can be held in a classroom setting or a larger room as a workshop or assembly.

Have a class sign up option and have it available to teachers to choose my programs to complement their course.

All presentations include insights from Andy's unique experiences during the pandemic. He worked 9 months at Costco in 2020, 2 months at a Vaccine clinic in early 2022, developed virtual versions of all of Impact Presentations, and became a very busy supply teacher! Andy successfully applied for three different jobs during the pandemic by using the skills he taught students for 30 years! When a tremendous employment crisis hit the speaking and entertainment industry in March of 2020, Andy was successful in "Getting his Hand UP" to demonstrate "Reliability" and "Inclusion" in three uniquely different workplaces! Your students NEED to hear the LESSONS he shares!

#### 5. **"Initiate Inclusion by Invitation" – Andy's Three "I's" of Building Community. A Leadership Training Program for grades 7 to 12.**

*"Inclusion is seeing differences, without seeing the difference." – Andy Thibodeau, 2020*

Inclusion is at the forefront of all schools' goals. For 10 months in 2018-19, Andy's family had three young women from Congo live with them until their housing situation was settled. The ongoing experience of being "Uncle Andrew" to new Canadians from Africa is hilarious, powerful, and insightful. When you initiate inclusion by invitation, his family's experience shows that the rewards go both ways – blessing the giver and receiver! From this experience, his work at the King's College Peace Camp (a children's program promoting understanding between the Christian, Jewish and Muslim faiths), and working for 9 months in 2020 at Costco, Andy offers perspective to the following challenges:

How can you initiate inclusion? What limits our courage to invite? How can one maintain enthusiasm for invitation and leadership when negative experiences and rejection challenge us in our schools and community? Include, invite, and lead by initiating!

This Leadership Version of the program divides the training into these modules:

COURAGE – Action and Energy. Barriers to Inclusion. Share Your Barrier. Share Your Story. Set the Example  
COMPASSIONATE CHANGE – Patience. Inclusion. Service. Being Approachable. Initiating Change.  
CONNECTION – Creating Community. Names. Small Talk to Smart Talk. Common Threads. Teamwork

Leadership themes: Inclusion, Appreciation of Differences, Self-confidence, Communication Skills, Team Building, Community Service.