

ANDY THIBODEAU

CREATING ... CARING ... COMMUNITY

London, Ontario, Canada

andypresentations.com



One Minute School Activity Ideas 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!

I was called “Mr. School Spirit” by King’s College at Western university’s (here in London) magazine when I was named alumni of the year in 2014. This passion for leadership and school spirit started in 8th grade when I broke out of my “shell of shyness” and became student council Vice President at my middle school. This led to becoming student council president at Laurier High School (London) and the orientation coordinator in university. I am blessed that my enthusiasm to improve youth leadership translated into a full-time career of inspiring students and staff across the continent.

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. Prior to the pandemic I averaged over 140 engagements a year. In 2023 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 grade 10 and taking a gap year before university here in London. Their mother is a high school teacher in French, English, and Business Computing. 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?

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 enthusiasm for Student Activities.**
- **Deliver Fun, Teambuilding, and Energy to a pep rally, assembly, or retreat.**

- Encourage Mental Wealth, Well-Being, and a Balanced Lifestyle.
- 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, Career and Trades classes with Workplace training and deliver the professional hours you need!
- Empower students for success in college and beyond!
- Share Appreciation and Encouragement to your School Staff.

ANDY’S 2022-23 USA REFERENCES

It was so amazing since the spring of 2022 to bring my IMPACT presentations to 70 schools and 20 conferences for the first time since early 2020, including USA appearances at ...

ELEMENTARY/MIDDLE SCHOOLS

Starpoint Middle in Lockport, NY for their final 8th grade assembly and East Aurora Middle in NY for a full school grades 5 to 8 pep assembly.

I am a rare speaker who has a version of my assemblies for grades 1 to 4 in addition to my programs for grades 5 to 12! Can I help your elementary and middle schools?

HIGH SCHOOLS

St. Clair HS in Michigan for their senior breakfast and then a sophomore and freshmen assembly. East Aurora HS in NY for a full school pep assembly to lead into Homecoming week. Churchill HS, Livonia, Michigan, for a half day student leadership retreat based on my Reliability program.

REFERENCES

Cowanesque Valley Middle and High School, Westfield, Penn. 2016 and 2023. Twice I have been the welcome back speaker for this school district. A full school grades 6 to 12 “Get Your Hand UP” assembly, crafted to match their school’s theme for the year, the statement “Make it Happen!” I then lead a 90 minute student leadership retreat based on my “Making Care Contagious” workshop. Organized for a second time by Principal Matt Sottolano and leadership advisors Amy Millard and Karin Knaus. amy.millard@ntiogasd.org

Williamson HS, Tioga, Penn. 2023. My first visit to this school was in August, based on a reference from Cowanesque Valley HS. They were thrilled by the full day program I created for the school. A middle school assembly, a high school assembly, both using my “Share your Care” message, a student leadership workshop for 2 hours using my “Can I Count On You?” Reliability training, concluding with an after school staff program for 30 minutes. Organized by Assistant Principal Shelby Button, Council Advisor Kelly Taylor, and Principal Bill Butterfield. kelly.taylor@ntiogasd.org

Lake Orion HS, Michigan and the Oakland Country Activity Association (OAA). Lora Hogan 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.

ANDY IS ENERGY!

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 including video of my assemblies, icebreakers, and leadership programs.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL - HALF DAY OPTIONS

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 senior 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.
- Co-Op / Careers Class/ Workplace Program Retreat: A two-to-three-hour work skills training program 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.

MIDDLE AND HIGH SCHOOL - 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. 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 PRESENTATION DETAILED REVIEWS

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 of 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.

Work ethic, School Spirit, Self-Confidence, Resiliency, and Volunteerism are the key themes of this assembly.

2. “Get Your Hand Up Seniors” – 12th Grade only Assembly

Andy has created a special version of his “Get your hand up” that is perfect for seniors-only 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 1st, please consider a separate assembly for your grads to help prepare them for the final months of high school and life after graduation.

This 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.

With his messages of kindness, caring and listening, this assembly is a popular choice for anti-bullying events, Inclusion messaging, and Pink Shirt campaigns. Be an example of care for others to follow!

Andy has a version of this assembly for grades 1 to 5 which lasts 45-50 minutes.

Andy’s version for grades 6 to 12 ends with this story: What was Andy’s criteria to ask Leica to dance at his first dance in grade 7? That she was hot? That she was cool? No! Hot and cool are temperatures and not characteristics. His criteria was, “will she say no ... nicely?!” Her kindness and character was why he asked her to dance! What would she say? This moving and comedic story about self-confidence and compassion will have everyone in your audience relating to Andy’s journey from shy grade 6 to high school grad.

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

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 6th to 12th grade 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 in 2022 he worked 50 days as a substitute teacher for all grades! This program is an empowering reminder to school staff about the difference they make with youth.

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.

In the fall of 2023 Andy was asked to lead a one hour Professional Development session for the teachers of Midland High School in Midland, Michigan. It combined the "Impact of Educators" program and his "Can I Count On You?" Reliability program. Here is an eleven-minute video summary of the presentation:

[Andy's 11-minute Video Summary of his Impact of Educators Program](#)

4. **Co-Op/Workplace Training Workshops Versions of my 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 Co-Op/Careers Class students to get their hours and experience in workplace skills and leadership training?

Andy's IMPACT Presentations will help you and your school deliver the **Contextualized Learning Activities for the following Work Habits:** Teamwork; Reliability; Organization; Working Independently; Initiative; Self-advocacy; Customer Service; Entrepreneurship; Time Management; Leadership.

Email him for a special flyer on my options for Co-Op/Careers class programs and presentations. Half day or Full-day options are available. Combine a school assembly and leadership program with a half day with your workplace focused classes!

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.

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 session can be used for Student Workplace Skills/Leadership Training and 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.

ANDY’S LEADERSHIP WORKSHOPS – ENERGY AND INSIGHT

This link is to a six-minute video that reviews some of the spirit and participation activities that Andy shares in his leadership programs for schools and youth conferences. All of Andy’s presentations include an activity every 15 to 20 minutes to increase participation and to build on his messages.

[Andy's Leadership Workshop Energy On Video](#)