

## What is an SLC?

A student-led conference is a meeting with a student, his or her family and teachers during which the student shares his or her portfolio work and discusses progress with family members. A portfolio is a selected body of student work--with reflections--that provides evidence of a student's progress toward standards, learning targets, and character growth. Preparation for a conference creates an authentic purpose for good organizational and communication skills. The structure builds students' sense of responsibility and accountability for their own learning, and it helps to hone their understanding of what it means to meet learning targets.

~From Leaders of Their Own Learning, Expeditionary Learning

<https://eleducation.org/resources/chapter-5-student-led-conferences>

## How do Students prepare for an SLC?

### 1. Compile high quality work

To begin the process, the student collects exemplary samples of work from every class, relying on teacher support when needed.

### 2. Reflect on high quality work

The student writes a reflection about each piece chosen for the portfolio. The reflection explains both the concepts the student learned and the scholarly habits he or she demonstrated when creating the work.

### 3. Set goals

The student sets goals for improvement based on their reflection. Assessments and data can also be introduced to help students evaluate their progress and set goals. Scholarly habits (such as habits of heart) can help define the areas a student still needs to work on.

### 4. Draft a script

The student drafts a script for the conference that includes the following components: an introduction that sets the purpose of the conference, an explanation of the portfolio work and other data, goal setting and conclusion.

### 5. Practice leading a mock conference

The student practices their conference with peers and/or teachers. Based on their feedback, students revise their presentation.

### 6. Host the conference :)

The student invites his or her family and hosts the conference.

## Helpful tips for parents that can help before and after the conference:

1. **ALWAYS** celebrate your student for his skills, his efforts and not for his abilities. This will help them have an open mind and will encourage the student to persevere , which will eventually lead to more achievements and confidence as a learner.
2. Help your student practice presenting his or her SLC in front of an audience or mirror.

3. Make sure your student is prepared with the information he or she will share; work demonstration, visual presentation or his / her notes.
4. On the day of the presentation, it is recommended that students be dressed professionally, as any person would when going to a job interview or in a professional setting.
5. Arrive on time! Teachers schedule conferences back to back, if a parent arrives late, the other schedules become delayed and it affects the rest of the group presenting on the same day.
6. Most importantly, **ASK QUESTIONS**, many times we have question that we forget about. Write down your questions and bring them with you on the day of the meeting. For example;
  - a. Reading level update
  - b. Math level update
  - c. Are there some resources that I can use at home?
  - d. Recommendations to support my student at home