

## Article Critique

### Module 5

#### **Two Future Ready Librarians Explore Advocacy In and Outside the Library**

By: Shannon Miller and Mark Ray

#### **Summary:**

“Two Future Ready Librarians Explore Advocacy In and Outside the Library” by Shannon Miller and Mark Ray is a professional article published in the journal, *Knowledge Quest*, and is available through ProQuest. In this article, Miller and Ray discuss the importance of advocacy by librarians as school leaders, and ways in which librarians can advocate for their students. The authors share personal experiences about ways in which they have advocated for their libraries at the community, district, and national levels. Their overarching argument is that librarians must proactively seek out opportunities to advocate for libraries, and their success is dependent on building positive working relationships with administrators and other community leaders.

#### **Critique:**

Miller defines advocacy in this article to mean the process of librarians actively seeking opportunities to share their passion and vision with students, community leaders and administrators. Through the effective utilization of logos and pathos, both authors support their assertion that librarian’s being proactive and prepared to consistently share their passion and mission while aligning their vision to district and community goals and initiatives will give them "a seat at the table" for development of their library and school. According to the authors, this

strategic advocating will create partnerships with administrators that will lead to the common goal of increased educational opportunities and resources for students.

Both authors establish their authority on the topic of advocacy in the library at the beginning of the article and in their authors' bios. Miller and Ray both serve as national advocates for school library programs and librarians through the national Future Ready Librarians initiative at the Alliance for Excellent Education. The authors each began their careers in school libraries, Miller as the district librarian for the Van Meter Community School District and Ray as an elementary, middle school, and high school librarian at various libraries in Vancouver Public Schools. Giving him a unique perspective on advocacy from the administrator point of view, Ray has additionally served as a district administrator in the role of Director of Innovation and Library Services in the Vancouver Public Schools.

In the article, the authors reference library advocacy as a way of bettering individual student lives, inciting pathos amongst readers. Additionally stirring up fervor for the authors' overarching arguments are the strategic use of active, positive diction throughout the article such as "excited", "empower", and "passion". These emotional underpinnings coupled with the usage of logos through sharing the authors' personal successes in advocacy partnerships with administrators, Miller and Mark bolster their claims that librarians should proactively advocate for their program and seek out alliances with administrators. This article should be recommended to school librarians in order to promote and encourage their advocacy at the school, community, and district levels.

### **References:**

Miller, S. M., & Ray, M. (2018). Two Future Ready Librarians Explore Advocacy In and

Outside of the Library. *Knowledge Quest*, 46(3), 22-27. Retrieved from

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