



SEASON 1, EPISODE 3

Leadership Through Initiative by Audrey Garoutte

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In this episode, Audrey Garoutte reflects on how taking initiative—the ability to recognize opportunities and take meaningful action—has shaped her TSA experience and personal journey. From supporting a new advisor to founding a student organization and teaching abroad, Audrey shows that initiative is key to leading with purpose, curiosity, and confidence.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Middle School

1. Audrey describes initiative as “observation, preparation, and action.” What do each of these steps mean to you?
2. Have you ever taken initiative to help someone or solve a problem—either at school, at home, or in TSA? What happened?
3. Audrey says you don’t need to wait for the perfect moment to act. Why is it sometimes hard to take that first step?
4. What are some small ways you could take initiative in your TSA chapter or school this week?
5. Audrey mentions that initiative builds confidence. Why do you think that is true?

High School

1. Audrey took initiative in college by emailing a professor she did not know to join a research lab. Have you ever stepped outside your comfort zone to create an opportunity for yourself? What did you learn?
2. What is a challenge you have observed around you that might be an opportunity to act or lead?
3. Audrey emphasizes interdisciplinary thinking—connecting different interests and fields. What are a few subjects or passions you would like to combine, and how might TSA help?
4. Reflect on a time when you waited instead of acting. What would you do differently if you had another chance?
5. Audrey says, “Don’t wait for the perfect moment. Start now.” What is one action you can take this week to lead with initiative?

Optional Extension Activity

Create a 3-step “Observe / Prepare / Act” plan for a new idea or improvement you want to try in TSA, your school, or your community.