



SEASON 1, EPISODE 7

Communication

by Noah Kelley

DISCUSSION GUIDE

In this episode, Noah Kelley explores how communication—the ability to connect with others, translate complex ideas, and listen with empathy—has shaped his leadership journey in TSA and beyond. From a nervous sixth grader to state president and future physician, Noah’s story shows that communication isn’t just a skill—it’s a relationship you grow over time. He reminds us that powerful communication doesn’t require perfection; it requires presence, reflection, and practice. Through competitions, collaboration, and even moments of failure, TSA helped Noah build the confidence to speak with purpose and lead with clarity.

DISCUSSION QUESTIONS

Middle School

1. Noah says that communication is a skill you shape over time, it is not something you are just born with. What is one way you have worked on improving your communication skills?
2. In early TSA competitions, Noah says he read straight from his note cards and had voice cracks. Can you relate to that nervousness? How do you calm your nerves when speaking in front of others?
3. Noah compares communicating science to giving instructions for building a LEGO. Why is it helpful to explain big ideas in simple, fun ways?
4. In TSA, Noah learned that listening and observing are just as important as speaking. Can you think of a time when really listening helped you solve a problem or support a teammate?
5. What is one thing you would like to get better at when it comes to communication—public speaking, listening, storytelling, writing, or something else?

High School

1. Noah says communication isn’t a test, it is a relationship. What does that mean to you? How can this mindset help you in your TSA chapter, school, or future career?
2. In his TSA experience, Noah says he made mistakes during presentations—but learned from them. Can you think of a communication “fail” you have had? What did you learn from it?
3. As a first-generation college student, Noah studied science communication to bridge the gap between experts and everyday people. Why is that kind of communication important in today’s world?
4. Noah helped create a TSA event called STEM Mass Media to challenge students to explain tough topics clearly and creatively. How might you use your voice to make complex topics more understandable for others?
5. Communication isn’t always about having the right words, it is about showing up, listening, and adapting. Why are those qualities important for leaders?

Optional Extension Activity

Build Your Communication Toolkit

- Draw or list your “Communication Toolkit.” What are 3–5 tools or traits you already use to be a good communicator (e.g., storytelling, eye contact, humor, listening)?
- Then, add 1–2 tools you want to develop this year through TSA events, chapter meetings, or school projects.