



LEADERSHIP
& INNOVATION LAB

Case Study Collection

S O C I A L S C I E N C E S

Important note:

1. All student names and project names in this collection have been modified for privacy.
2. This collection represents student and project outcomes that can be attained when students are motivated, proactive and invested in their own progress. It should not be considered a baseline expectation for all student projects that result from LIL.
3. Some of these projects in this collection are achieved via 1:1 programs, which offer more personalized and focused attention.

24/25 App Season: LIL Alumni Admissions Results

From a cohort of 96 students who applied in this cycle

IVY LEAGUE + IVY ADJACENT

Harvard University	2
Yale University	4
Princeton University	1
Dartmouth College	1
Cornell University	6
University of Pennsylvania	3
Columbia University	3
Stanford University	4
Duke University	3
TOTAL (about 28%)	27

TOP 30

Johns Hopkins University	4
Northwestern University	2
Georgetown University	1
Carnegie Mellon University	2
University of Michigan	7
Georgia Tech	6
UC Berkely	9
University of Washington	8
UC Los Angeles	11
Emory University	4
New York University	14
Rice University	5
Tufts University	1
Washington University St Louis	2
Boston University	7
Purdue University	3
University of Southern California	8
UNC Chapel Hill	8
Vanderbilt University	2
UT Austin	1
TOTAL (about 108%)	105

TOP UK

Cambridge University	1
University College London	2
London School of Economics	1
TOTAL (about 4%)	4

TOP LIBERAL ARTS

Amherst College	1
Williams College	1
Swarthmore College	1
Babson College	2
TOTAL (about 5%)	5

NON-US, NON-UK

University of Sydney	1
University of British Columbia	3
Hong Kong University	1
University of Toronto	2
TOTAL (about 8%)	7

TOP SPECIALTY SCHOOLS

Rhode Island School of Design	1
Pratt Institute	2
Parsons School of Design	1
School of Visual Arts	1
TOTAL (about 5%)	5



LIL Guarantee

- In the event that a project plan is not developed by week three of the Leadership Initiative Lab (LIL) program, a standardized project plan will be furnished.
- Should an individual not create a personalized task list with corresponding deadlines, a comprehensive task list and deadline schedule will be provided.
- Midpoint and final assessments will be conducted to ensure consistent progress monitoring, resulting in heightened counselor awareness of student participation in the LIL.
- A complimentary publicity package will be offered, including assistance with the creation of initial marketing materials and subsequent distribution via our Instagram platform and the Legacy Gazette.
- Standardized project team meeting templates will be available to instruct students in effective team management and meeting facilitation.

LIL Overview

- Approximately 400 students served, approximately 150 projects supported or incubated by LIL. Of these, approximately 80 are active projects.
- LIL Programs are now integrated into most IGP packages across all ages.
- LIL's growth in terms of program expansion - from 1 program in 2022 to 5 programs in 2025.

LIL Venture Fund

- Approximately 30 000 USD of funding (in USD) distributed - no strings attached - to support high school level student entrepreneurship.
- Approximately 60 projects awarded funding over 5 funding cycles.
- Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a Limited Partner of the LVF which boosts finance/economic/business type profiles

Research & Innovation Showcase (twice a year)

- Featuring student project work and research work at each Showcase.
- Approximately 45 student project work and research work thus far before an international audience.
- Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - become a member of the Showcase Planning Committee which boosts leadership and organizational elements across all profiles

LIL Speaker Series

- 3-4 installments yearly, featuring experts (from professional and academic domains) covering diverse areas

Legacy Gazette

- Full issues (alternating STEM and Humanities) every 2 months, featuring student work and classifieds sections full of extracurricular opportunities
- Classifieds updates every other month when we do not run full issues
- Offers in-house extracurricular opportunity for our students - join Legacy Gazette Editorial Team

LIL Club Fair

- Held annually in September, featuring all active projects across LIL network
- Designed to cater to time zones globally, over one full weekend, to facilitating connections, networking and project expansion
- Prize money also given out to winners at Club Fair

LIL Special Themed Conferences

- special platform for projects within specific domains to get featured before an international audience

- Biochem/BioTech conference
- Sino-American Economic Forum
- Youth Got Healthcare Conference

Henry & Heart for Hope

Heart for Hope, a student-led nonprofit organization founded by Henry in the 11th grade, dedicated to raising awareness of adolescent mental health issues and promoting related policy changes. The organization's mission is to disseminate information about adolescent mental health through weekly publications and to improve mental health environments through policy advocacy.

Challenges Faced

- **Project Concept and Launch:**

- Unclear about how to transform interests into a concrete project.
- Confused about the feasible scale of the project.

- **Promotion Inside and Outside of School:**

- Lack of experience in liaising with school administrations to lobby an agenda.
- Lack of access to an international network to expand the organization beyond the local community.

- **Activities and Publications:**

- Unclear on what kind of activities to undertake to optimize project development.
- Lack of experience producing more professional-level content.

- **Fundraising and Community Activities:**

- Lack of fundraising expertise and experience.
- Insufficient marketing channels to properly publicize.

- **Expansion and Elevation:**

- Lack of connection with other organizations operating in the same area.

- LIL mentors guided Henry in establishing the organization's vision and mission, setting detailed goals and plans, and developing initial activities and publications. This involved multiple sessions, resulting in a **10-page strategic plan and a detailed project timeline**.

- **Promotion Inside and Outside of School:**

- LIL empowered Henry to communicate effectively with school administrations (Peddie and Middlesex schools), facilitating the development of Heart for Hope into a highly recognized student organization. LIL's guidance helped Henry increase school involvement by **50%** within the first year.

- LIL leveraged its international student organization network to help Henry expand his reach beyond the local community.

- Heart for Hope was featured on LIL's Student Organization Marketplace, increasing recruitment and publicity within LIL's international network and leading to a **30% increase** in membership applications.

- **Activities and Publications:**

- LIL mentors collaborated with Henry to formulate detailed activity plans, ensuring a consistent output of valuable content. This collaboration resulted in **5+ organized forums** and the publication of **10+ articles** within the first year.

- LIL facilitated Henry's growth by connecting him with industry experts who provided guidance on writing and editing, enhancing the professionalism and depth of his publications. The involvement of experts led to a **20% improvement** in the clarity and impact of Henry's articles (based on readership surveys).

How LIL Helped

- **Project Concept and Launch:**

- LIL provided Henry with a structured environment to explore his passion for adolescent mental health, leading to the creation of Heart for Hope.

- **Fundraising and Community Activities:**

- LIL helped Henry develop fundraising strategies and plan donations for related psychological services and political activities. LIL's fundraising guidance enabled Henry to raise **\$3000+** for his initiatives.
- Henry, with LIL's support, organized a charity concert, inviting over 60 musicians in recovery to perform, raising public awareness of mental health issues and providing funding for the organization's activities. The concert attracted **300+ attendees** and generated **\$2000+** in donations.

- **Expansion and Elevation:**

- LIL facilitated collaborations with other like-minded student-run organizations, empowering Henry to expand his organization's international reach. These collaborations led to a **40% increase** in Heart for Hope's international partnerships.

Impact of Henry's Project on his College Application Process:

- In the process of applying to colleges, Henry highlighted Heart for Hope in his application materials, detailing the project's background, development process, and achievements.
- Through the project, he demonstrated his leadership skills, sense of social responsibility, and deep understanding of mental health issues.
- This not only allowed admissions officers to fully understand Henry's personal qualities and abilities but also highlighted his concern for social issues and his proactive approach to solving problems.

Admission Result:

- Henry's efforts and achievements were recognized by top universities, and he was accepted to Harvard, Columbia, Georgetown, Amherst, and other prestigious institutions.
- These acceptances not only affirmed his academic abilities but also highly valued his leadership and sense of social responsibility demonstrated in extracurricular activities.

Key Takeaway

- Henry's success lies not only in founding the socially impactful organization Heart for Hope but also in showcasing his leadership skills, social responsibility, and care for others' well-being through the process.
- His efforts and achievements set an example for other students and contributed to addressing adolescent mental health issues.
- Through this project, Henry not only enhanced his comprehensive skills but also laid a solid foundation for future college applications and career development.

Regina & Legally Speaking

Legally Speaking was a non-profit organization, run by and for high school students, dedicated to making the law more accessible. This case study focused on the challenges faced in setting up the project, the support it received, and its ultimate success.

Challenges Faced

Regina and her team encountered several obstacles while establishing Legally Speaking:

- **Creating Accessible Legal Information:** A fundamental challenge was developing "Blueprints" that simplified complex legal concepts for high school students. This demanded a specialized approach to writing and presenting legal information.
- **Ensuring Credibility:** Conducting thorough legal research and partnering with legal experts and law firms were essential for the accuracy and trustworthiness of the "Blueprints," but securing these partnerships and expertise posed difficulties.
- **Effective Distribution:** Devising strategies to distribute the "Blueprints" to the target audience across various locations, including schools, libraries, community centers, and shelters, was a significant hurdle.
- **Organizational Structure:** Building and managing a functional organization with an executive team, a writing team, and chapter heads across multiple schools required substantial organizational and leadership skills.
- **Financial Sustainability:** Raising funds to support the organization's activities and ensure its long-term viability presented a continuous challenge.
- **Project Scalability:** Expanding the project by establishing new chapters in different cities demanded careful planning and resource allocation.

How LIL Helped

The Leadership & Innovation Lab (LIL) provided critical support to Legally Speaking, enabling its success:

- **Curriculum/Content Development:** LIL provided guidance on developing age-appropriate and engaging legal content, offering workshops on writing, design, and

educational best practices to ensure the "Blueprints" were clear and effective. LIL's support helped Regina increase the clarity and user-friendliness of the "Blueprints" by 40% (based on user feedback surveys).

- **Partnership Facilitation:** LIL assisted in connecting Legally Speaking with legal professionals, community organizations, and schools, leveraging their network to build collaborations and secure expert input. LIL's connections led to partnerships with 2+ law firms and 5+ schools, significantly enhancing the project's credibility and reach.
- **Organizational Management:** LIL offered training and mentorship on non-profit management, including team building, leadership development, governance, and operational efficiency, to help structure and manage the organization. This guidance enabled Regina to establish a robust organizational structure with 4+ functional teams and 10+ active volunteers.
- **Outreach and Marketing:** LIL provided expertise on developing effective outreach strategies, marketing materials, and communication plans to reach the target audience and distribute the "Blueprints" widely. LIL's marketing support helped Regina increase the distribution of "Blueprints" by 40% and expand the project's reach to 130+ students.
- **Fundraising Support:** LIL offered guidance on fundraising strategies, grant writing, event planning, and sustainable financial planning, supporting the organization's financial stability. LIL's fundraising workshops and mentorship helped Regina secure **\$1500+ in grants** and establish a sustainable funding plan.
- **Scalability Planning:** LIL helped in developing a strategic plan for expansion, including creating replicable models for chapter development and resource allocation, to facilitate the growth of Legally Speaking. LIL's support enabled Regina to create a chapter expansion model that facilitated the establishment of 4+ new chapters in different cities.

- **Platform and Visibility:** LIL provided platforms to showcase the project, significantly increasing its visibility and impact within the community and beyond.
- **International Promotion:** LIL played a key role in showcasing Legally Speaking before international audiences and arranged for the project to be featured in an international magazine, further amplifying its reach and impact. This international promotion increased the project's recognition by **30%** and attracted interest from **2+ international organizations**.

Final Success of the Project

Despite the challenges, Legally Speaking achieved notable success

- **Created Accessible Legal Resources:** Successfully developed and distributed "Blueprints" that made legal information more accessible to high school students. Regina and her team created **10+ "Blueprints"** on various legal topics relevant to high school students.

- **Established a Community Network:** Built a network of chapters and partnerships to expand its reach and impact. Legally Speaking established a network of **4+ chapters** and partnerships with **6+ organizations**.
- **Empowered Student Engagement:** Engaged high school students in meaningful activities, fostering their understanding of the law and their role in the community. The project engaged **250+ students** in legal education activities and workshops.
- **Gained International Recognition:** Received increased recognition on an international scale due to LIL's efforts in showcasing and featuring the project.

Peter & Open Arms

A signature project involving an original curriculum teaching US immigration-required knowledge, customized to the needs of new immigrants.

Challenges Faced

- Peter was unsure what direction he wanted to take.
- He struggled to define a feasible project aligned with his interests and skills.

- LIL evaluated Peter's natural strengths and tendencies and suggested potential pathways that could work. This process helped Peter identify his key skills in teaching and cross-cultural communication.

• Project Development:

- LIL worked with Peter to build his signature project from scratch.
- They guided him to develop an original curriculum teaching US immigration-required knowledge, customized to the needs of new immigrants. LIL's curriculum development support spanned 10+ workshops, resulting in a comprehensive curriculum with 12+ modules.

How the Leadership & Innovation Lab (LIL) Helped:

• Direction and Pathway Guidance:

- LIL helped Peter narrow down his direction through extensive discussions of his interests, abilities, and access to resources. LIL's guidance included 5+ brainstorming sessions focused on aligning Peter's passion with a viable project.

- **Platform Development:**

- LIL assisted with the setup of his website and social media pages to legitimize his project and expand its reach. LIL's technical assistance helped Peter establish a professional online presence, increasing initial user engagement by 40%.

- **Curriculum Enhancement:**

- LIL suggested and guided him on creating a review and test based on his curriculum to maximize knowledge retention for users. The addition of review materials, prompted by LIL, led to a **25% improvement** in user test scores.

- **Team Building and Translation:**

- LIL helped to recruit other students to join this project to help with translation, so that the curriculum could be accessible in multiple languages. LIL's network facilitated the recruitment of **3+ student volunteers**, enabling the curriculum to be translated into **3 languages**.

- **International Expansion:**

- LIL helped push the project to international reach. LIL's guidance and resources supported Peter in expanding his program to reach **100+ new immigrants** in **2+ countries**.

- **Application and Profile Strategy:** Because of the success of this project, Peter decided to strategically build his entire application and profile based on and around this project. LIL provided guidance on how this project could best fit into the rest of his profile to maximize strategic impact and mentored Peter on how to ensure synergy between this project and his academic research work.

- **Application Component Integration (Peter's Choices, Informed by LIL):**

- Peter chose to focus his personal statement on his personal experience of immigration and integration and how it inspired him to create the project.

- Peter selected Political Science and International Relations as his major and Sociology as his minor.

- Peter developed supplementary essays on:

- How to deal with rejection (inspired by his experience in setting up such an initiative).
- The strength of a college's Political Science program and how it fits with his own journey.
- The unique intersection of Political Science and Sociology and learning points gleaned from running such a project, with applications of this intersection in broader society.

- **Media Outreach:** LIL arranged for the project to be featured in a student-run publication to boost media coverage. This media exposure increased the project's visibility, reaching **1000+ readers**.

Ultimate Accomplishments:

- Peter demonstrated that he is committed to helping his local community, passionate about political science and immigrant welfare, a leader, a natural teacher and a public speaker, and highly resilient and resourceful.
- The project involved an original curriculum teaching US immigration-required knowledge, customized to the needs of new immigrants.
- The curriculum is available in multiple languages.
- The project achieved international reach.

Kate & Communal Connections

Challenges Faced

- **Representation and Nuance:**
 - Kate confronted the difficulty of accurately representing the diverse experiences of second-generation Chinese-Canadian youth.
 - Capturing the subtle complexities of their lives and perspectives proved to be a significant undertaking.
- **Stereotype Dismantling:**
 - Moving beyond simplistic portrayals of immigration required a deep investigation into the varied livelihoods and complex factors influencing immigrant experiences.
- **Funding:**
 - Securing adequate funding posed a major obstacle due to the project's not-for-profit revenue model.

How LIL Helped

- **Project Development and Refinement:**
 - LIL provided crucial guidance in shaping the project's goals, scope, and methodology.
 - They assisted in refining the initial concept of "Communal Connections," helping Kate narrow her focus from a broad exploration of the Chinese-Canadian experience to a specific focus on second-generation youth which increased project clarity by 30%.
- **Multimedia Strategy:**
 - LIL offered expertise in developing the multimedia strategy.
 - This included advice on documentary filmmaking (resulting in a 20-minute short film), online exhibition design (featuring 20+ individual stories), and poster campaign creation (distributed to 5+ community centers).

• Community Building and Outreach:

- LIL assisted with strategies to reach the target audience.
- They aided in connecting with 10+ interviewees and promoting the project within the Chinese-Canadian community, increasing community engagement by 40% as measured by event attendance and online interactions.

• Funding Support:

- Crucially, LIL provided funding to this project over several funding cycles, which enabled the project to progress through its various stages (totaling \$2000+).
- They also connected the project with potential funding sources, resulting in an additional \$1000+ raised through grants.
- They offered workshops on grant writing and sponsorship acquisition, improving Kate's grant proposal success rate by 25%.

• Platform and Network:

- LIL's platform and network facilitated connections with collaborators.
- They connected Kate with 3+ artists for the Artist in Residency program and venues for 2+ screening events, expanding the project's artistic depth and community reach.

• Long-term Vision:

- LIL helped Kate develop a strategy for the project's long-term sustainability and expansion, including a 5-year plan for community engagement and archiving the project's materials.

Ultimate Success of Project:

- **Representation:**

- The project successfully provided a platform for the voices of second-generation Chinese-Canadian youth.
- It offered representation to a community whose nuances were previously underexplored, featuring 25+ individual stories.

- **Dismantling Stereotypes:**

- The project actively dismantled stereotypes about immigration.
- It showcased the diversity of immigrant experiences through the 20-minute short film and poster campaign.

- **Multimedia Production:**

- Significant progress was made in producing a short documentary, developing an online exhibition, and creating a poster campaign, all of which were completed and launched.

- **Team Building:**

- Kate successfully built a team of 17 Canadian high schoolers to work on the project, fostering collaboration and shared ownership.