

Report of an unexpected visit to a YAN meeting.

By a founding member of YAN

On the 26 August 2023 I had the privilege of witnessing a thought-provoking and inspiring debate organized by the Youth Advocacy Network (YAN) members. The event showcased the remarkable talent, dedication, and passion of the YAN members as they engaged in a lively discussion on Deforestation and drought abuse. Their ability to articulate their ideas and the depth of their understanding left a lasting impression on me.

Impressive Display of Youth Advocacy:

The YAN debate was an impressive display of youth advocacy in action. The members demonstrated exceptional knowledge of the topic, backed by well-researched facts and statistics. They expressed their viewpoints articulately and passionately, which not only engaged the audience but also highlighted their commitment to the cause they were advocating for. It was evident that the YAN members had invested significant time and effort into preparing for this debate.

Key Takeaways from the Debate:

Several key takeaways emerged from the debate:

Passion for Change:

The YAN members' passion for driving positive change was palpable. They expressed a deep concern for the issues at hand and a genuine desire to make a difference in their communities.

Inclusivity:

The debate fostered an atmosphere of inclusivity, where diverse perspectives were welcomed and respected. This diversity of thought added richness to the discussion and emphasized the importance of collaboration in addressing complex issues.

Effective Communication:

The YAN members' communication skills were exceptional. They conveyed their ideas clearly, persuasively, and with empathy, making it easier for the audience to connect with their messages.

Evidence-Based Advocacy:

Facts and data were the foundation of the YAN members' arguments. They effectively used evidence to support their claims, reinforcing the credibility of their advocacy.

Advice to YAN Members:

As someone who was deeply impressed by the YAN members and their debate, I would like to offer some advice:

Continue to Collaborate:

The spirit of collaboration displayed during the debate should be nurtured and maintained. Collaborating with peers and experts can lead to more impactful advocacy efforts.

Expand Your Outreach:

Consider reaching out to a broader audience, both online and offline. Social media, community events, and workshops can be effective platforms for sharing your advocacy work and inspiring others to join your cause.

Stay Informed:

Continue to stay updated on the latest developments in your chosen field of advocacy. Knowledge is a powerful tool, and being well-informed will enhance your ability to effect change.

Advocate for Action:

While debates are important for raising awareness and discussing issues, remember that advocacy is about driving tangible change. Focus on practical steps and solutions to address the problems you are passionate about.

Conclusion:

The YAN debate I witnessed was a testament to the incredible potential of young advocates to bring about positive change in our society. The members' passion, inclusivity, communication skills, and evidence-based approach left a deep impression on me. I have no doubt that the Youth Advocacy Network will continue to inspire and lead the way in advocating for a better future. Keep up the outstanding work!

God bless YAN

God bless Koinadugu

Foday B.Kamara.

Founding member of YAN,
now living in Freetown