

Agency

An Empowering 30-Lesson Curriculum for High School Students

Dear Students,

Welcome to Agency, a course designed to help you recognize and appreciate your ability to lead purposeful lives. This course will give you the tools to develop your own goals and understanding of life's meaning, the scope and constraints on the choices you make, and the consequences of your choices on your life trajectories.

But Agency is about more than just ideas; it is also about putting ideas into practice with intent and focus. Every lesson invites you to consider the kind of person you want to be and the contributions you want to make to the world. The goal is to empower you to live purposefully and with confidence.

We also want Agency to give you hope and joy. Living with purpose does not mean denying pain and suffering. On the contrary, living with purpose requires wisdom, judgment, and intention in the face of pain. It also requires the capacity for wonder and the willingness to ask for help.

Welcome to the journey.

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Dear Parents,

We are delighted that your children are taking the Agency course. What is the purpose of the course, and what will your student experience?

Agency is designed to help young people develop their own goals and understanding of life's meaning; the scope and constraints on the choices they make; and the consequences of their choices on their life trajectories.

The course is designed to be challenging. That is because Agency is about more than just ideas; it is also about putting ideas into practice with intent and focus. Every lesson invites young people to consider the kind of person they want to be and the contributions they want to make to the world. The goal is to empower them to live purposefully and with confidence.

The journey towards personal responsibility and purpose inevitably involves confronting hard truths, taking healthy risks, and leaning into the learning process. Your children will encounter poetry, philosophy, and profound commentary from historical leaders. They will also learn about religion as an anchor for creating meaning, purpose, and community across time and cultures. (Agency does not, of course, promote or endorse a particular religious belief.)

But even if the course is challenging, we want Agency to give your children hope and joy. Living with purpose does not mean denying pain and suffering. On the contrary, living with purpose requires wisdom, judgment, and intention in the face of pain. It also requires the capacity for wonder and the willingness to ask for help.

Thank you for entrusting your children to the process. Their teachers and the FREE team are available to answer any questions you may have at FREEInitiative@AEI.org.