



Jack Wagoner

HIGH SCHOOL ASSEMBLY SPEAKER

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Travel from Boston

Your students are not lazy. They are out of evidence.

A 45-minute assembly for students who do not know what they want to do, and do not know how to find out.

45 min

Fits a standard
assembly block

9-12

Any size room,
gym or auditorium

Phone free

Nothing needs
a device

TEDx

Speaker,
2026

155

Podcast episodes with
founders,
athletes and researchers



TEDx NortheasternU London, 2026

THE PROBLEM

They stopped believing effort changes anything.

The students you worry about most are usually not the ones who **do not care**. They are the ones who have quietly concluded that trying will not change the outcome.

They are asked to decide who they are going to be before they have any evidence about themselves, and every tool we hand them for getting it is a *thinking* tool.

There are questions you cannot think your way into answering. You have to act your way into the answer.

So they compare, decide they are behind, and stop. The ones who do try often go enormous, fail inside a month, and spend down the last of their **self trust**.

I speak to high school students because I was one three years ago. I had the grades, the sports and the friends, and **no idea what I was actually capable of**.

Action is the Antidote

Assembly · 45 min · grades 9-12 · any size room

I open as the problem, not the expert. Then three moves, each proved with a story and a piece of research, and a close that asks every student for **one action before they go to bed that night**.

WHAT THEY LEAVE WITH

- One opportunity they have been avoiding, named, with the first concrete step
- A direct challenge to the belief that **effort will not change their outcome**
- What they control and what they do not, *without dismissing real circumstances*
- **Social comparison** named as a distorted measure of their own progress
- Follow through built on small repeatable commitments, not all or nothing plans
- One written commitment to act on within 24 hours. **On paper, no devices.**

Let's find a date.

Tell me about your assembly and I will come back within 24 hours. If I am not right for your students, I will say so.

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