DR. WHO: PRESCRIPTIONS FOR COMMON CHOIR AILMENTS

Ailment: Passivity
Symptoms: Minimal audible musical changes, glazed faces, forgotten fixes, talking in rehearsal
Cause: Director-centric rehearsals
Cure: Allow for students to make musical decisions and listen critically
Methods:

- **Choir, M.D.**
  - Create a diagnosis worksheet
    - Symptom: What problem do you hear?
    - Diagnosis: What is causing the problem?
    - Prescription: How would you fix the problem if you were the director?
  - This can be done with a short recording, at the end of rehearsal, after a concert, every Friday, etc.

- **Post-It Notes**
  - Set goals: What can you/your section/your choir improve?
  - Reflect: What did you learn today? What was your favorite fix today? What was difficult for you?
  - Give feedback: What would you like to tell your director about what you are hearing?
  - Answer creative questions: What would make this song more interesting for an eight-year-old?
  - This activity can be done with partners, on a cover sheet, as a grade, during a section meeting, or as an exit ticket, etc.

- **Teaching Partners**
  - Pair up
  - Sing a passage or speak text to one another
  - Give a feedback goal: Give one to three corrections on your partner’s French pronunciation.
  - Follow up

Ailment: Lack of Engagement
Symptoms: Sleeping, resistance to change, shrinking program, general ennui
Cause: Director-centric program
Cure: Activate Student Creativity
Methods:

- **Socratic Method**
  - Prepare a handout including song text, two open-ended questions, and a poet bio
  - Inform students of the procedure and set a consequence for not following procedure
  - Sit in a circle
  - Read the text while listening to a recording of the piece
  - Students offer answers one person at a time

- **Group brainstorm**
  - Small groups in circles
  - Ask for a choir decision (pop show songs, party ideas, banquet theme, t-shirt design, slogan for the year, how to improve inter-choir relationships, etc.)
  - Choose a scribe
  - Set a timer
  - List as many ideas as possible and decide on the best few
  - Combine groups, combine ideas, narrow down the lists
  - Combine groups and ideas again
  - Have a spokesperson from each group present their favorite idea(s)

- **Choir Council contributions**
- **#whymnotcool**