

Adultism

Young people are systematically mistreated and disrespected by society, with adults as the agents of oppression. The basis of young people's oppression is disrespect. Manifestations of the oppression include:

- Systematic invalidation
- Denial of voice or respectful attention
- Physical abuse
- Lack of information or misinformation
- Denial of power
- Lack of rights



Adult Allies

Allies are adults who advocate and support young people. They assist young people in their lives, support them when they struggle, and let them know how important they are and that change is possible.

Ladder of Youth Participation

Degrees of Participation

Youth-initiated, shared decisions
with adults

Youth-initiated and directed

Adult-initiated, shared decisions
with youth

Consulted and informed

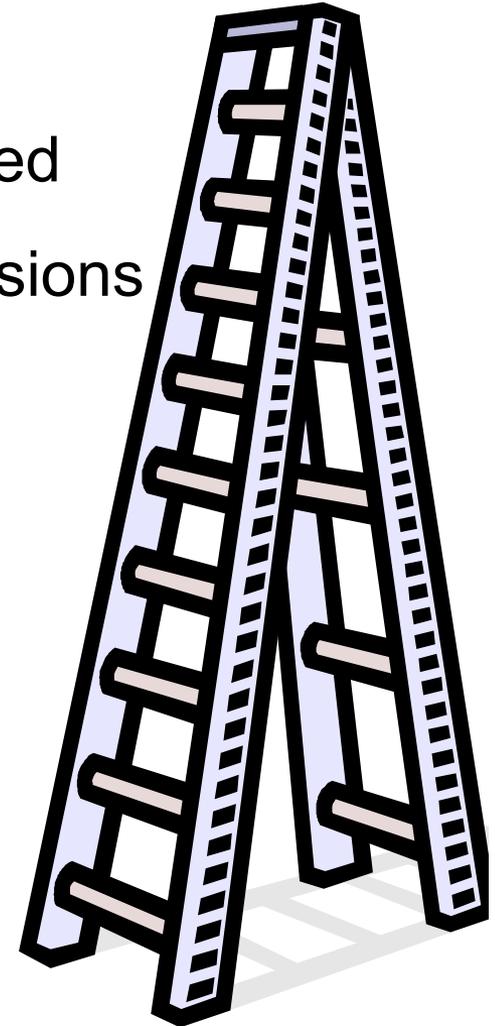
Assigned but informed

Non-Participation

Tokenism

Decoration

Manipulation



A Spectrum of Youth Leadership

Youth as Clients	Youth Participation	Youth Involvement	Youth Driven	Youth Run	Youth Led
Youth are “served” by adults and have no input into program decision-making.	Youth input in to program decision-making is occasionally solicited by adult workers.	Youth provide regular input into program decision-making.	Youth have substantive, meaningful roles in leadership positions, including governance and programming.	Youth fill a majority of staff positions and manage the day-to-day operations of the organization.	Youth are in all major leadership roles, including executive director, and have majority membership of board of directors, with appropriate support from adult allies.