

# Positive Youth Development III: Youth Voice & Engagement

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# Housekeeping

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You are  
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To: All panelists and attendees ▾

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Please use the chat  
function for comments  
and questions

# Agenda

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- Recap – What is Positive Youth Development?
- Defining youth engagement
- Examples of meaningful youth engagement
- Challenging adultism
- Questions & Resources

# Recap: Positive Youth Development

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A philosophy or approach that guides communities in the way they organize programs, supports and opportunities so that young people can develop to their full potential.

- Focus on building positive outcomes
- Youth voice and engagement
- Long-term involvement/Developmentally appropriate
- Universal/Inclusive
- Community-based/Collaborative



Youth Voice & Engagement -  
What does this mean to you? Why is it important?

# Youth Engagement as Human Right

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...the active and meaningful involvement of young people in all aspects of their own development and that of their communities, including their empowerment to contribute to decisions about their personal, family, social, economic, and political development (United Nations, 2007)

- Such engagement requires recognition of young people's knowledge, perspectives, and experiences as valuable contributions to decision making at all levels (United Nations, 2007)

- It requires structures and systems put in place by adults to support them (Patton et al, 2016)

# Youth Engagement

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... can be defined as involving youth in responsible, challenging action that meets genuine needs, with the opportunity for planning and/or decision-making affecting others...

there is mutuality in teaching and learning (between youth and adults) and ... each group sees itself as a resource for the other and offers what it uniquely can provide.

*National Commission on Resources for Youth, 1974*

# Examples of Youth Engagement?

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# Examples of Youth Engagement

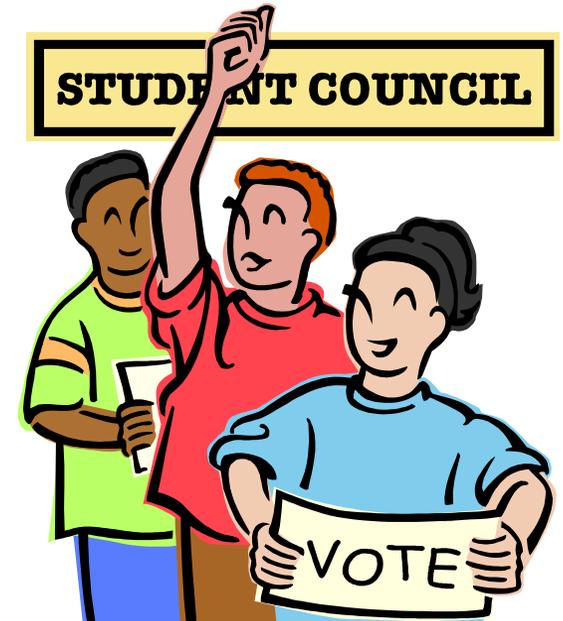
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## Youth in Governance

Forum for Youth Investment: Building Effective Youth Councils  
<http://www.readyby21.org/resources/building-effective-youth-councils>

## Social Activism

Akiva, et al. Reasons youth engage in activism programs: Social justice or sanctuary? Journal of Applied Developmental Psychology 53. August 2017  
[https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320107376\\_Reasons\\_youth\\_engage\\_in\\_activism\\_programs\\_Social\\_justice\\_or\\_sanctuary](https://www.researchgate.net/publication/320107376_Reasons_youth_engage_in_activism_programs_Social_justice_or_sanctuary)



# Youth in Media/ Education



- ❑ Video PSAs: Example: The Accidental Bully

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=97de0hsC7xI&list=UUSS0AF2Eg9Bbbq4QpmjasMw>

- ❑ How Youth Learn: Ned's GR8

[http://www.whatkidscando.org/featurestories/2013/01\\_how\\_youth\\_learn/index.html](http://www.whatkidscando.org/featurestories/2013/01_how_youth_learn/index.html)

# Meaningful Roles for Young People

<b>Leadership Positions</b> <b>Voting Board Members</b> <b>Board Committees (Hiring, Program)</b>
<b>Youth Forum</b> <b>Youth Advocacy</b> <b>Consultants</b> <b>Youth Advisory Group</b> <b>Media</b> <b>Focus Groups</b>
<b>Peer Education</b> <b>Peer Mentoring</b> <b>Youth Facilitators</b> <b>Community Service Projects</b> <b>Youth Theater</b>

**Shared  
Leadership**

**Voice &  
Consultation**

**Participation**

# Benefits for Youth

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Civic Development (skills, attitudes, awareness)

Social/Emotional Development (belonging, efficacy)

Vocational Development (skills, social capital)

# Benefits for Adults, Organizations, and Communities

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Professional Development (skills, confidence)

Social/Emotional Development (connectedness)

Organizations reflect & respond to youth concerns

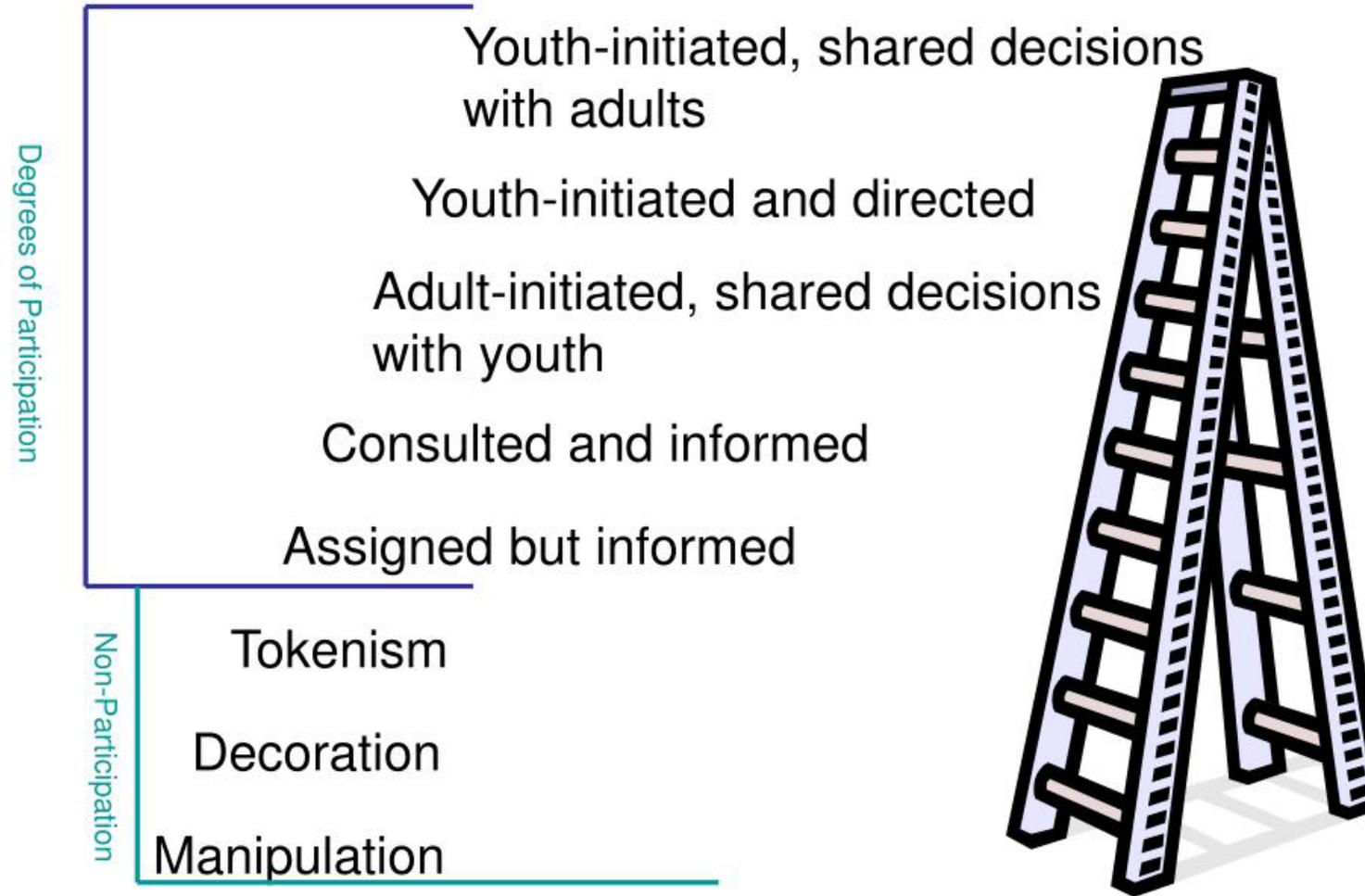
Organizations are more appealing to potential funders

Public policies/programs are more effective & equitable

New coalitions emerge to address issues

[https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2012/12/Youth in Decision Making.pdf](https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2012/12/Youth_in_Decision_Making.pdf)

# Ladder of Youth Participation



# Scenario: Youth on Hiring Committee

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You want to bring young people onto the hiring committee for youth workers. You want them to be part of the hiring process from beginning to end: reviewing the job description, recruitment materials, and applications, as well as interviewing and decision making.

You need to convince the administrators ...

Name Benefits

Anticipate  
Challenges?

# Obstacle: Adulthood

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...the behaviors and attitudes  
which flow from negative  
stereotypes adults hold about  
youth.

*John Bell, 1995*

[http://nuatc.org/articles/pdf/understanding\\_adultism.pdf](http://nuatc.org/articles/pdf/understanding_adultism.pdf)



# Obstacle to Youth Engagement: Adulthood

from ACT for Youth



Think back to your teen years -  
Have you experienced adulthood?



# Manifestations of Adulthood

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- Dysfunctional Rescuing
- Blaming the Victim
- Avoidance of Contact
- Denial of Distinctiveness of Youth Culture
- Denial of the Political Significance of Adulthood

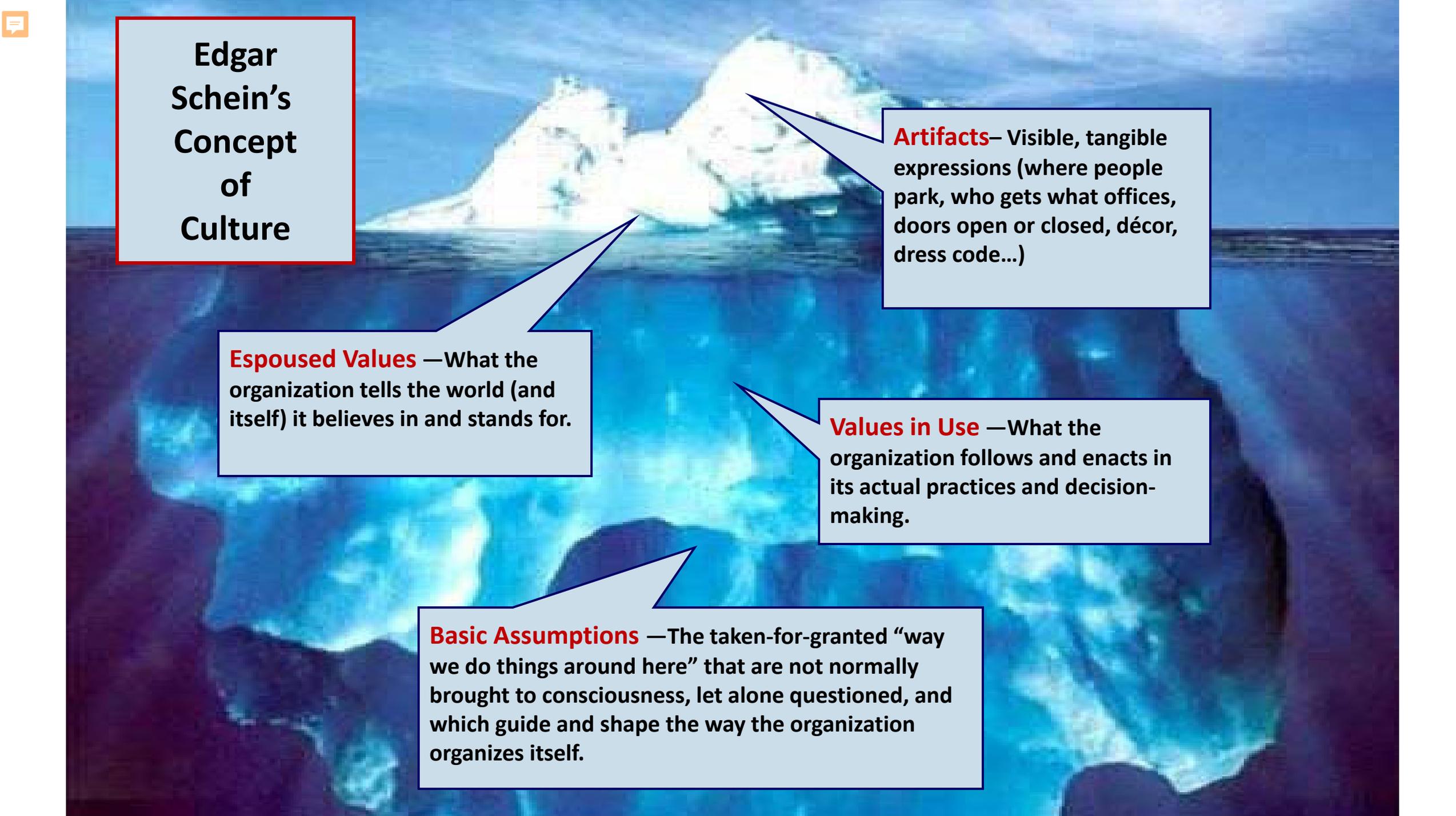
Advancing Youth Development (AYD) Curriculum

# Defeating Adultism

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- Self-Reflection
- Check your biases: Harvard's Implicit Test  
<https://implicit.harvard.edu/implicit/selectatest.html>
- Deconstruct adultism

An iceberg floating in the ocean. The tip of the iceberg is above the water line, and the much larger part of the iceberg is submerged below the water line. The background is a blue sky and dark blue ocean.

## Edgar Schein's Concept of Culture

**Artifacts**— Visible, tangible expressions (where people park, who gets what offices, doors open or closed, décor, dress code...)

**Espoused Values** —What the organization tells the world (and itself) it believes in and stands for.

**Values in Use** —What the organization follows and enacts in its actual practices and decision-making.

**Basic Assumptions** —The taken-for-granted “way we do things around here” that are not normally brought to consciousness, let alone questioned, and which guide and shape the way the organization organizes itself.

# Poll: Youth-Adult Partnerships

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Think about your own agency or program and respond to the following statements. Check off which feels right to you.

- A. The idea of engaging youth in decision making excites me.
- B. Youth have the right to be heard on matters impacting their lives.
- C. The idea of engaging youth in decision making makes me nervous.
- D. Our program/agency regularly solicits the input of young people.

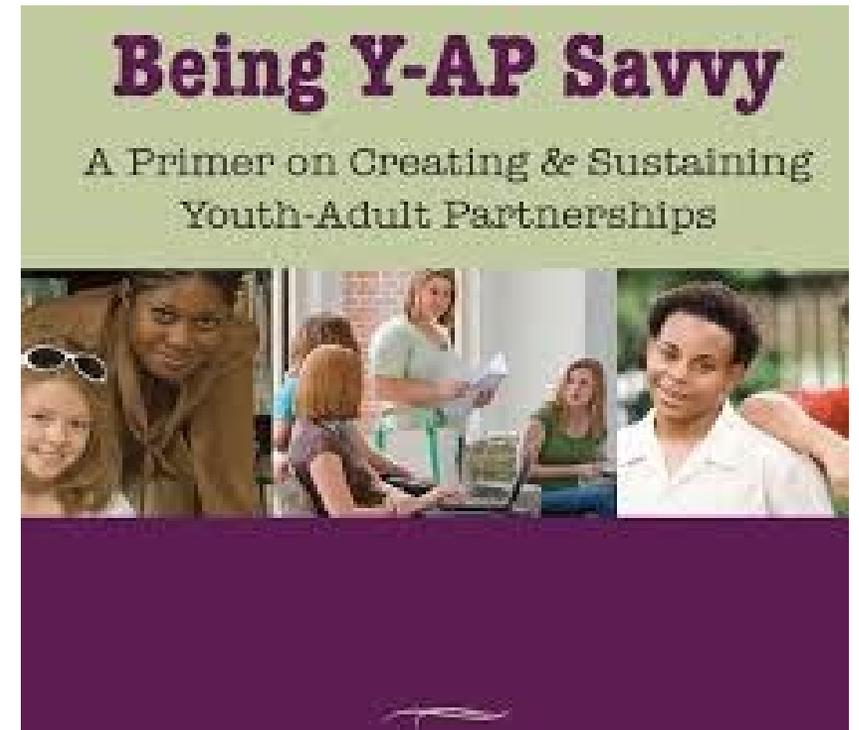
# Youth-Adult Partnership Resource

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Being Y-AP Savvy:

A Primer on Creating & Sustaining  
Youth-Adult Partnerships

<http://fyi.uwex.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2011/02/YAP-Savvy12.pdf>





## Your Checklist for Quality Youth-Adult Partnership

How will your organization or school monitor the quality of your Y-AP? This checklist will help. Make time on a regular basis to discuss this checklist to identify the strengths and limitations in your partnership. You will be amazed at the successes your group will experience.

### Relational Environment

- All participants—younger and older—feel as though they matter.
- There is freedom to explore, to stumble and fall, and to learn by doing. But expectations are always high.
- The group explicitly strives to build a culture of respect and equality.

### Opportunity Role Structures

- Power hierarchies in decision making are flattened to the greatest extent possible.
- There are clear roles, large or small, for all participants.
- Responsibilities are assigned based on participants' own choices, skills, and access to power and social connections.

### Core Participant Experiences

- Adults are readily available to coach youth.
- Youth have the chance to teach adults and their peers.
- There is ample time for group reflection, decision making, and celebration of success.

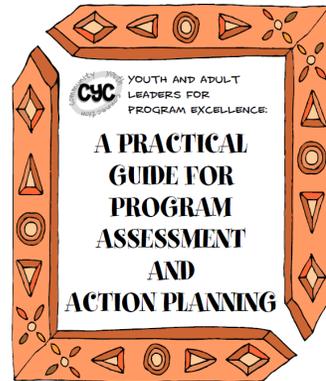
### Values and Principles

- Adults listen and respond to youth voice, and vice versa.
- Everybody is encouraged to participate, at a level consistent with their interest and time availability.
- All members understand how their own participation is contributing to the common purpose of the Y-AP.

Shepherd Zeldin et al. 2018. *Preparing for Youth Engagement*

[http://www.actforyouth.net/resources/pm/pm\\_preparing-youth-engagement\\_0818.pdf](http://www.actforyouth.net/resources/pm/pm_preparing-youth-engagement_0818.pdf)

# Youth Adult Partnership Tools



CYC  
- CAMINO & ASSOCIATES -  
WISCONSIN  
Cornell University

## Youth and Adult Leaders for Program Excellence (YALPE)

<https://fyi.uwex.edu/youthadultpartnership/yalpe-workbook/>

## Youth-Adult Partnership

### RUBRIC

A tool for professional development and program evaluation in youth settings  
VERSION 1.0

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## Youth-Adult Partnership RUBRIC

<https://cerc.msu.edu/yaprubric>

# Preparing Youth (Resources)

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Gardner Center, Stamford University. YELL  
[http://jgc.stanford.edu/our\\_work/yell.html](http://jgc.stanford.edu/our_work/yell.html)

Advocates for Youth. 2009. Building Effective Youth-Adult Partnerships  
<https://advocatesforyouth.org/resources/fact-sheets/building-effective-youth-adult-partnerships/>

Innovation Center for Community and Youth Development, National 4-H Council, National Network for Youth, Youth Leadership Institute. 2003. Youth-Adult Partnerships: A Training Manual.  
<https://fyi.extension.wisc.edu/youthadultpartnership/files/2015/03/YouthAdultPartnershipsTrainingManual.pdf>

Adolescent Health Initiative: Creating and Sustaining a Thriving Youth Advisory Council  
<https://www.umhs-adolescenthealth.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/02/manual-for-website.pdf>

Any questions,  
comments or  
takeaways?



# Resources



The screenshot shows the ACT for Youth website. The header is blue with the ACT for Youth logo on the left and the tagline "Your Online Source for Positive Youth Development" on the right. A search bar is located in the top right. Below the header is a yellow navigation bar with links for "Youth Development", "Adolescence", "Sexual Health", "Publications and Events", and "About Us". The main content area has a breadcrumb trail: "Home > Youth Development > Youth Work Professionals > Professional Development". On the left is a sidebar menu with a "Feature Section" and a "Youth Work Professionals" section. Under "Youth Work Professionals", the "Professional Development" link is highlighted in blue. Below it are links for "Positive Youth Development 101", "PYD 101 Online Courses", "Inclusive Program Environments", "Competencies", and "Facilitation Tips". The main content area displays the title "Professional Development for Youth Workers" in large blue font, with a "printer-friendly" link below it. The text states: "ACT for Youth is committed to promoting the language of positive youth development (PYD) and integrating core PYD principles into the field of youth work. We aim to enhance the capacity, knowledge, and competencies of adults who work with and for young people, as well as their organizations." Below this is the heading "Positive Youth Development 101 Training" and the start of a paragraph: "The 10-hour training curriculum **Positive Youth Development 101** offers an orientation to positive youth development for new youth work professionals. The curriculum includes five sections:

[http://www.actforyouth.net/youth\\_development/professionals/](http://www.actforyouth.net/youth_development/professionals/)

# Resources

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ACT for Youth: Youth Work Professionals

[http://www.actforyouth.net/youth\\_development/professionals/](http://www.actforyouth.net/youth_development/professionals/)

ACT for Youth: Youth-Adult Partnerships for Change

[http://actforyouth.net/youth\\_development/engagement/partnerships.cfm](http://actforyouth.net/youth_development/engagement/partnerships.cfm)

Adam Fletcher: Youth/Adult Partnerships Tip Sheet <https://freechild.org/yaptips/>

Ramey, H. L. et al. Youth-Adult Partnerships in Work with Youth: An Overview. *Journal of Youth Development*. Vol 12, No.4 (2017)

<http://jyd.pitt.edu/ojs/jyd/article/view/171204FA003>

Paul Kivel: Adulthood

<http://paulkivel.com/resource/adulthood/>

# References

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United Nations. (2007). *World Youth Report*. New York, NY: United Nations.

<https://www.un.org/development/desa/youth/world-youth-report/world-youth-report-2007.html>

Patton, G.C. et al. (2016). Our Future: a Lancet commission on adolescent health and wellbeing. *The Lancet*, 387 (10036), 2423-2478.

National Commission on Resources for Youth. (1974) *New Roles for Youth in the School and Community*. New York: National Commission on Resources for Youth