

Tips for Shared Learning Among Youth and Adults

Adult Do's	Adult Don'ts	Youth Do's	Youth Don'ts
Come willing and ready to listen and learn.	Assume that you know more or have more valuable knowledge than the youth.	Come willing and ready to contribute ideas, listen and learn.	Assume adults won't take you seriously or aren't really interested in hearing the truth from your perspective.
Help keep other adults in check.	Team up with or allow other adults to dominate the conversation.	Encourage all youth participants to contribute to the process and speak their truth.	Team up with people you know or who share ideas in an attempt to "win" the conversation.
Help ensure a safe environment for all to offer their input and ideas.	Allow the outspoken or more experienced youth to dominate or rule the experience for all.	Step up and respectfully articulate when you feel an adult is dominating a conversation.	Defer leadership and/or expertise to the adults.
Articulate clearly the roles, responsibilities and expectations for all youth and adult participants.	Assume that everyone understands why they are there and how they need to be together.	Bring honesty, energy and your unique ideas and experiences to the conversation.	Show up just because someone told you to or because you got out of school.
Articulate from an adult perspective why youth voice is so important.	Create an atmosphere of tokenism.	Respect people with different backgrounds and experiences.	Assume that everyone has had the same experiences as you.
Make clear the importance of youth input and its impact after the event.	Set up youth to feel engaged and important only to have them involved in a fruitless event or conversation.	Follow up by taking your ideas and information back to your own school and community.	Leave this as a one-time experience and go back to your school or community without working to change anything.
Lead with a question.	Deliver answers.	Have fun!	Complain about being bored without helping to make things fun.
Have fun!	Act like you would rather be somewhere else.		