



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Be Present

Acknowledge the child in any way or form. Many teens don't get any attention from their parents or teachers, so they don't have anyone to talk to or role models. Adults such as parents or teachers should be present in a kid's life to make sure they know they have a support system.



Be available and ready to help, listen, assist and provide for others whenever needed.

For an adult to be present, they must demonstrate their reliability every day.

Give youth your full attention and listen and engage in conversation.

Listen to what teens are saying and believe them. Also, do not ignore anyone's questions or go on their phone.



Continuously and willingly support youth ideas.





TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Offer Meaningful Engagement

Be in the moment with youth, help them experience the moment, and help them take away what is needed.

Talk about experiences that relate to the problem at hand.

Give stories that will help youth get through life.

For adults to offer meaningful experiences, they must consider factors outside of their own to create a more insightful experience.

Provide experiences where you learn something more than just a waste of time.

Adults have life lessons they don't share with the younger generation, so when youth don't learn these simple tips, they make the same mistakes as those before.




TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION


Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board



Provide Leadership Opportunities




Engage them in opportunities to teach them life lessons on character development and get them involved in their community.





Find ways to give young people new experiences and leadership positions.

Trust youth to have a job with responsibility.



For an adult to offer leadership opportunities, they must demonstrate expertise in the field. This serves as a means of mentorship and encouragement even to take on such a role.

Allow others to take the lead and grow their skillset when you know others can do a better job, but you want to provide equity to others.



Adults should always have opportunities for teens/students to get involved. Many teenagers do not know of opportunities in their communities because no one tells them, and they don't have the resources to find out. Schools should always have a board where opportunities are listed in school, the community, and outside of the state.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Motivate

Talk about having overcome adverse circumstances to inspire children to mimic them.

Encourage and support youth.

Help youth get through a challenging situation.

For an adult to motivate, they must include variety in their conversation. Having more reasons to reach goals makes a person more likely to feel inclined to reach them.

Help guide the ship, but don't completely take over. You want to show youth how to steer the boat but not drive it for them.

Many teens lack motivation because of situations in their life. Some are depressed, others have anxiety, etc. Having someone motivate us makes us feel like we can do anything that we put our mind to. Adults need to encourage that behavior.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Seek and Value Youth Input and Perspective

Be honest and authentic, don't talk differently just because a kid is a kid. Youth will most likely give respect back to adults who show them respect as well.

Listen closely when a young person shares their opinion and take action based on what they say.

Be straightforward with questions. Listen and support opinions.

For an adult to ask for and respect a young person's opinion, they must be willing to listen and work with youth as equals in that setting.

Instead of just brushing it off because we are "young," take it the same way your superiors would when you ask for an opinion.

It can be frustrating to feel your voice is suppressed at home or at school. Adults should treat youth partners like their equals, not someone below them.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Remain Youth-Centered

Draw awareness through teens to get a more realistic approach to handling topics about teens

Don't ever lie to teenagers because you'll lose all credibility. Also, operate from a base of logic rather than solely emotion

Use lots of honesty and listen intently with understanding

For adults to use a youth-centered approach, they must include youth within their campaign or acknowledge their perspective.

Use an approach specifically designed for youth when approaching them. For example, you would not use the same approach for a summer camp as a board meeting.

Sometimes a teen needs someone on their level. We don't want to talk to someone who will look down on us. In many situations, an adult should come at the situation in a different way.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Encourage Reflection

Model reflection for young people that might not be familiar with how to do this properly and efficiently.

Give young people time to think about their past and how it will affect their future.

Have youth look back on their decisions with hindsight.

For an adult to encourage reflection, they must promote the idea of growth and the ability to improve. This instills the idea of looking back and seeing how far we've come and ways to grow from our experiences.

Never stop improving, even though you may have got it; see what you can do better in the future for yourself and others.

Youth don't often reflect because they never learned how. To reflect, you have to think about things and how they impacted you, but teens don't know how to take that first step. Having an adult encourage that behavior from time to time helps youth learn that basic skill.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Provide Support

Encourage and guide youth to set and achieve goals.

Be available to chat or answer questions when necessary.

Encourage decisions and help accomplish goals.

For an adult to provide the support, they must understand another person's problems beyond their horizon. In other words, they must not be quick to judge. Often, providing support is as simple as listening.

Be Present

Many youth do not have a support system. Those who don't have one usually go in the wrong direction because they do not have support and advice from a role model to guide them. If adults offer that, more and more youth become active in the world, but there isn't always any support a teen can turn to in many homes and communities.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Celebrate

It means to work hard and achieve goals and celebrate when achieved.

Encourage a continuation of hard work and perseverance by congratulating the members of a team on their accomplishments.

To be joyful and well planned with lots of communication.

For an adult to celebrate, they must stay within the bounds of respect and personal space. The age difference between youth and adults is not ignored and must be acknowledged, even in celebrations. Always ask before embracing another and encourage celebration with boundaries.

Genuinely celebrate accomplishments instead of a generic "great job."

More and more youth look for academic validation, and when they achieve it, they do not know how to celebrate because they feel like they did not do much but went above and beyond. Having an adult celebrate some victories with the teen/youth helps and encourages them to be proud of themselves.



TIPS FOR ENGAGING YOUTH

YPRC SAB EDITION

Straight from the source - our Student Advisory Board

Recognize Assumptions

Reflect on oneself and be open-minded in recognizing differences and possible assumptions about a person.

Realize when people are assuming things without hard evidence and attempt to dispel those assumptions.

Just notice when something isn't right or when you should stop and think about something first.

For an adult to recognize assumptions, they must see the bigger picture or try to understand more than what just another person is saying because opinions are restricted to one's mind only.

Predict outcomes and steer away from those.