

Initiating Youth Engagement: Assessment Tool



Using the Indicator Framework and Assessment Tool

The Assessment Tool is intended as a starting point for reflection and discussion amongst a planning team or organizational stakeholders (including youth and adults). Create space for celebration of practices as well as critical voices or challenges. If only used as a simple checklist without collaborative discussion, these worksheets will not be effective, resulting in inaccurate assumptions that could negatively affect the process/project.

Getting Started

- Form a team (of youth and adults) to champion youth engagement in your context, or gather the key stakeholders in your project or organization
- Dedicate time to use the Assessment Tools together at key points throughout your process: for example, at the beginning of a new initiative or phase, at a phase that is particularly challenging, after a phase of activity is over, or at a time where momentum has decreased, etc.
- Use the Assessment Tools to record your discussions and set goals for improving engagement practices. Start small and prioritize the areas you would like to work on. Some of these indicators may not be relevant to your program, or to your current phase of activity.
- Recognize strengths, identify gaps and select areas for improving youth engagement. No program is ever perfect, nor does any process stay static – there will always be need for change, adaptation, and improvement throughout the process.



For convenience, print the Assessment Tools double-sided
to create two-sided worksheets.

Initiators of Youth Engagement

Rate on a scale of 1 to 5 where 1 indicates Poor, 3 is Average and 5 is Excellent.

How well does your school/organization do the following:	Poor	Below average	Average	Above Average	Excellent	Not applicable
Share examples, success stories and research related to youth engagement	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Reflect on organizational policies, processes and readiness to engage youth	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Identify potential youth engagement opportunities	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Partner with community stakeholders (policy makers, researchers, youth organizations, young people)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create mechanisms for youth voice and participation in decision making and planning	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Define common objectives, purposes, values and principles re: youth engagement	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Keep the youth engagement planning committee connected and meeting frequently	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Identify research questions, issues, and/or projects for which youth input is sought	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Work collaboratively to encourage stakeholder buy in (youth, adults, researchers...)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Invite and recruit diverse young people to participate (in committees, programs, initiatives, or events)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create opportunities for young people to participation in multiple ways (presentations, research, artwork, advising...)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Prepare youth for their participation (information, pre-meetings, community building, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Prepare adult there for participation (Adult Ally training, resources, community building, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Prepare youth friendly materials and processes for participation (youth-friendly language, activities that get people moving, sharing info in creative ways)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create logistics plans (recruitment, space, food, travel, medical, resources, etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

See Discussion Questions on reverse.

Initiators – Discussion Questions

Current areas of strength: Are there any shining examples of initiating youth engagement in your organization/program?

Priority area(s) for improvement: What is one thing you want to start doing right away to initiate youth engagement?

Short-term goals to initiate youth engagement:

Long-term goals to initiate youth engagement:

