

Sustaining 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

Sustainers 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
Offer opportunities to develop and take action on ideas (groups, planning committees, youth nights)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create opportunities and spaces to maintain relationships and stay connected (Facebook groups, websites, conference calls, drop in space, school groups)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create follow-up activities and opportunities, to keep youth engaged even after a project or event has concluded	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Partner with organizations that can support ongoing youth engagement and future youth opportunities, even after a project or event has concluded	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Acknowledge youth contributions (thank-you cards, letters, or certificates to participating youth)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Offer volunteer hours or honorariums for youth participation	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Create opportunities for youth to participate in evaluation and recommendations for next steps	1	2	3	4	5	n/a
Provide ongoing mechanisms for youth input and advise (youth advisory, youth planning committee...etc.)	1	2	3	4	5	n/a

See Discussion Questions on reverse.

Sustainers – Discussion Questions

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

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

Short-term goals to sustain youth engagement:

Long-term goals to sustain youth engagement:

