

STRATEGIES FOR ENGAGING AND PARTNERING WITH YOUTH IN SCHOOL COMMUNITIES & STATE AGENCIES

Presenters: Sarah Mathew & Alejandra Venzor

HELLO

Let's break the ice...

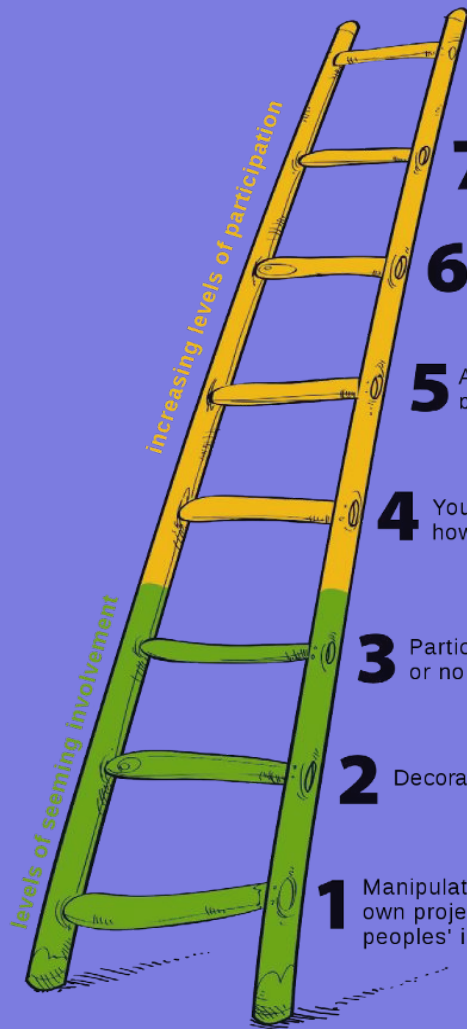


OBJECTIVES

Objective One: Be able to differentiate between levels of youth engagement.

Objective Two: Be able to describe approaches for appropriately engaging youth (in groups or as representatives) in school and community settings.

Objective Three: Be able to discuss considerations for hiring Youth Advisors and developing the role.



1 Manipulation - adults use young people to support their own projects and pretend they are the result of young peoples' inspiration

2 Decoration - young people help implement adults' initiatives

3 Participation for show - young people have little or no influence on their activities

4 Young people are assigned tasks and informed how and why they are involved in a project

5 Adults make decisions, young people are consulted and informed

6 Adults' initiative, joint decisions

7 Young people's initiative and leadership

8 Young people's initiative, decisions made in partnership with adults

HART'S LADDER OF YOUTH PARTICIPATION

HART'S LADDER SELF REFLECTION ACTIVITY

ON YOUR OWN CONSIDER THE FOLLOWING:

IN THE WORK I DO CURRENTLY, HOW MUCH VOICE DO YOUTH HAVE?

IN THE CURRENT AGENCY I WORK FOR, HOW MUCH VOICE DO YOUTH HAVE?

IN THE SYSTEMS THAT DELIVER SERVICES TO YOUTH, HOW MUCH VOICE DO THEY HAVE?

WHAT RUNG ON HART'S LADDER AM I CURRENTLY WORKING ON AND WHERE WOULD I LIKE TO BE?

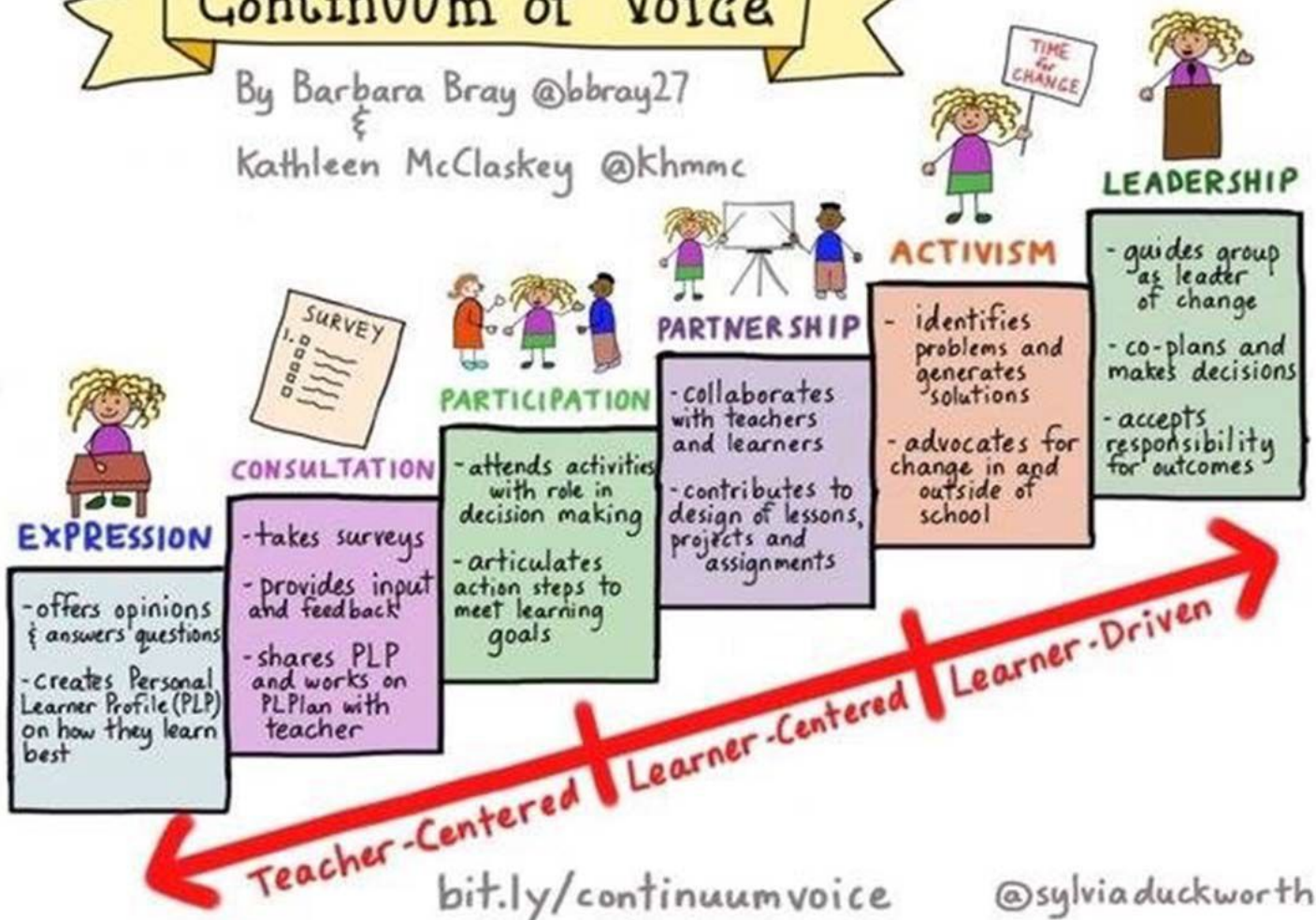
WHAT IS YOUTH VOICE?

- YOUTH VOICE IS THE CONCEPT THAT YOUNG PEOPLE ARE RESPECTED FOR THEIR IDEAS AND OPINIONS AND ARE FREE TO STATE THEM WITHIN AN ORGANIZATION OR PROGRAM.
- LISTENING TO STUDENT VOICE REQUIRES EDUCATORS TO INTENTIONALLY, PURPOSEFULLY, AND SYSTEMATICALLY ELICIT STUDENT VIEWPOINTS ON A SPECIFIC TOPIC FOR SCHOOL IMPROVEMENT PURPOSES.

Continuum of Voice

By Barbara Bray @bbray27

&
Kathleen McClaskey @khmmc



bit.ly/continuumvoice

@sylvia duckworth

SILENT WISDOM

Activity time!



What has 13 hearts, but
no other organs?

I am the beginning of everything,
the end of time and space, the
beginning of every end, and the
end of every place. What am I?

With pointed fangs I sit and wait;
with piercing force I crunch out
fate; grabbing victims,
proclaiming might; physically
joining with a single bite. What
am I?

WIN-WIN SITUATION...

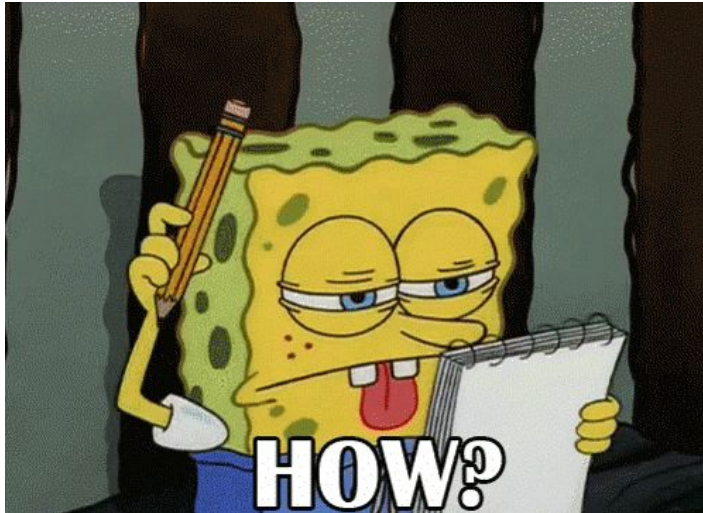
Benefits for Youth:

- Learning experience
- Practice behaviors & skills
- Adopt useful habits for adulthood

Benefits for Adults:

- Learn how to share power
- Working outside of your comfort zone
- Develop the skills to create a culture to welcome youth engagement
- Better understanding of being a youth in today's world

BIG QUESTION IS:



- Expect no more and no less from a young person.
- Respect young people's time & responsibilities
- Practice Patience-Take time to explain
- Provide some guidance & support
- Be consistent as an individual & as a organization
- Sustainability
- Celebrate achievements!

WAIT...WHAT?





PYD IN ACTION

Positive Youth Development:
A tool for organizations



Search this site

Home

Strengths-Based

Inclusive

Youth as Partners

Collaborative

Sustainable

Resources

About this tool

This website incorporates a Positive Youth Development (PYD) tool that was developed to foster reflection, discussion, and continuous improvement for youth serving entities. [Learn more here.](#)

What is PYD?

Founded on existing literature and informed by communities, Colorado defines PYD uniquely as a universal approach with a practical lens that cuts across multiple risk factors and across all levels of prevention. PYD in Colorado is an evidence-based approach that guides communities and organizations in the way that they organize services, opportunities and supports so that all *youth can be engaged and reach their full potential.*

PYD develops:

1. Skills
2. Opportunities
3. Authentic Relationships



Programs, Practices and Policies

These skills, opportunities and authentic relationships are guided by the following 5 principles:

1. [Strengths-Based](#)
2. [Inclusive](#)
3. [Youth as Partners](#)
4. [Collaborative](#)
5. [Sustainable](#)

This universal PYD approach allows for all youth-serving and supporting organizations to be

DIFFERENT WAYS TO ENGAGE YOUTH & WHERE

What youth engagement looks like:

- Have youth co-facilitate/teach with you
- Get youth feedback on materials and imbed their recommendations
- Allow youth to inform how lessons are taught
- Engage youth as board members/decision makers
- Create Peer Leader/Youth Advisor positions
- Have youth do presentations of your organization

Opportunities for Youth Voice:

- Speaking Bureaus
- Art Exhibits
- Poetry contests
- Social Media
- Peer Mentors
- Youth Advisory Boards
- Student Government
- Campus Clubs
- Existing committees

MEET
SYN UNITED!



LESSONS LEARNED

Define role and inclusion process

Understand and communicate need

- Full time/part time?
- Term limit

Prepare existing staff

Coaching and training

- Office culture, processes

Support

- Match other employee expectations for reimbursement/compensation
- Tuition assistance

Identify opportunities for continued involvement

KEYS TO SUCCESS



Sarah Mathew
mathew_s@cde.state.co.us

Alejandra Venzor
venzor_a@cde.state.co.us