

BENEFITS AND CHALLENGES

Purpose: To have participants consider the challenges and the benefits of working in partnership with young people.

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Half sheets of standard size paper (8.5" x 11") for people to write on - about 3 sheets for each participant, markers, paper or some material on wall to put all ½ sheets, spray adhesive or masking tape rolled to put on the back of the ½ sheets.

Procedure:

Note: This approach with the use of ½ sheets and a ‘sticky’ wall is taken from the ICA workshop methods.

“We talked a little in the introduction about the benefits of working with young people, and you shared what made you the proudest about your work with youth. Let’s focus for a minute on what we think young people bring to the table that adds to the experience. You will be working in small groups to come up with a list and we will compile all your responses to see what some of those benefits might be.”

Instruct people to take a moment or two to write down every benefit that they can think of that a young person brings to the table in an equal partnership. Give people time to think through a number of ideas, and then have them join a group of about four additional people to discuss their entire list. Have each group choose five to seven benefits that they will put on the half sheets.

- ⇒ Write big
- ⇒ One idea per sheet
- ⇒ 5-7 words per sheet

Leader’s Notes

Help get people into small groups quickly if they are having trouble.

As you go through each element (write big, one idea per sheet, 5-7 words per sheet), have these on ½ sheets of paper and post each one as you read the item.

Once they have their five to seven benefits, have each group choose two that they think are the most important. Read through all of the responses and then ask people to put up two that no one else has put up. Ask for any others that should go up. Go through all out loud and ask the participants....

- What was it like to come up with benefits that young people bring to the table?
- Are there items up here that are particularly unique to being young?
- How can we use this information as we go forward?
- Now ask the participants to do a similar process with the challenges of working with young people.

Discussion Questions:

1. How easy was it to come up with benefits? Challenges?
2. What is there about the benefits that can help overcome the challenges?
3. Where else might you look for ideas on how to overcome the challenges?
4. What is one learning from this activity?
5. How might we use this information?

One way we will be using the challenges in the Youth-Adult Workshop is developing strategies to overcome the challenges when we meet in our youth-adult teams.

Leader's Notes

You will record this information after the training and give to participants.

One trainer has posted on one side of the blackboard the brainstorming of benefits and challenges from other workshops and then flips it over to show a comparison between other groups and the brainstorming done by this group.

You will be saving all the responses for the workshop when youth and adults are together.