

bringing definition to youth and adult

purpose • To help partners, groups, and organizations begin to define the terms “youth” and “adult”

time 30 minutes

group size 10 to 40 participants

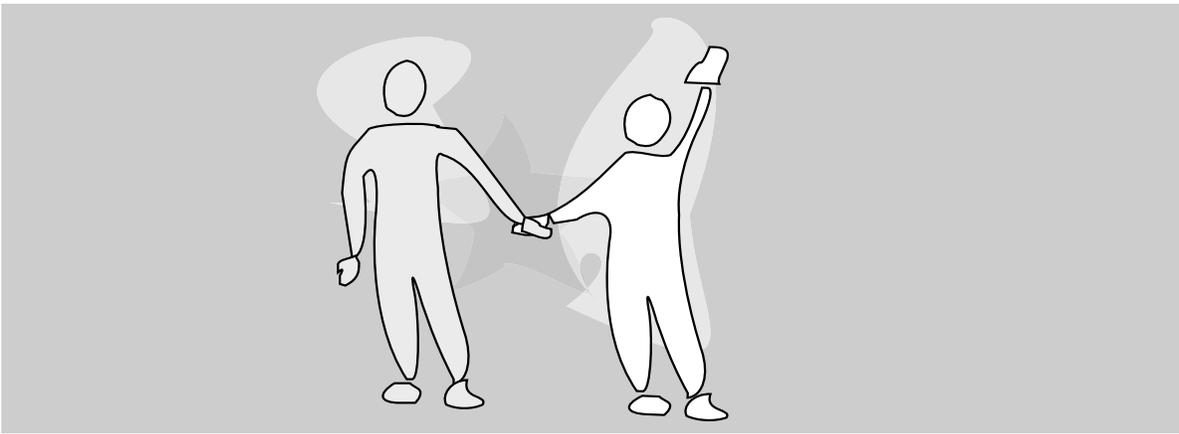
materials • Flip chart paper
• Markers
• Tape
• Art supplies (optional)

introduction

Explain to the group that forming and working in youth–adult partnerships reveal the challenges and benefits of working with the opposite age spectrum. A common difficulty is not having a definition of what a “youth” or an “adult” is. This activity explores various definitions of youth and adults. Groups may end up with a common definition, or they may realize that everyone’s definition is going to be different.

step one

Divide participants into small groups (no more than 10 members per group). Provide each group with a sheet of flip chart paper, markers, and art supplies. Explain to the groups that they will be given a specific time frame (depending on the number of small



groups; allow about 10 minutes to prepare and 2 minutes per group to present) to develop a definition of youth and a definition of adult. Ask the groups to write this definition on the flip chart paper.

Once each group has written its definition, ask each small group to prepare a presentation representing its definition. This presentation can be anything from a skit or song to a poem or bumper sticker message. Encourage groups to be as creative as possible.

step two

Ask the groups to post their definitions on the wall and have each group give its 2-minute presentation to the entire group.

reflection and discussion

Process the activity in the large group using the following questions:

- What word, phrase, or image caught your attention?
- What similarity do you see across the definitions? What differences do you see?
- How is this information important to you in your youth–adult partnership?
- How might you use these definitions in your youth–adult partnership?