

identifying barriers to effective partnerships

purpose • To explore and name the potential barriers to working in partnership with young people

time 15 to 30 minutes

group size 20 to 30 participants

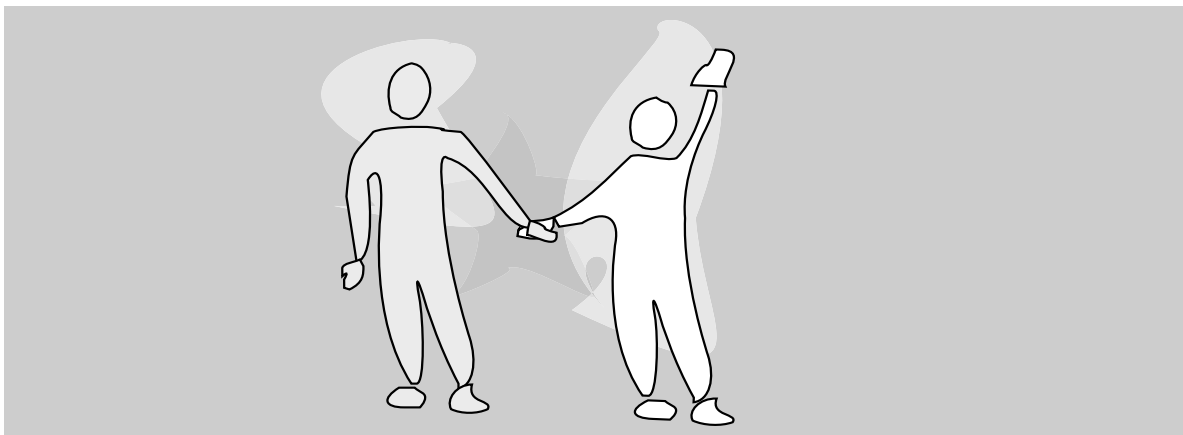
materials • Flip chart
• Markers
• Tape

prepare ahead Seven sheets of flip chart paper, each with one of the six questions listed in Step one. Post the flip chart paper around the room.

trainer note: This activity is best used as a follow-up conversation to the Developing a Common Vision activity on pg. 91

introduction

If we can all agree on the benefits of having youth as full partners in the work that we do and in our communities, then what blocks us from achieving that goal? Have the group think about and discuss the real and perceived barriers to having effective and successful youth–adult partnerships.



step one

Divide the participants into several small groups (six groups would be ideal). Ask each group to stand at one of the following six stations, designated by the six sheets of flip chart paper prepared earlier.

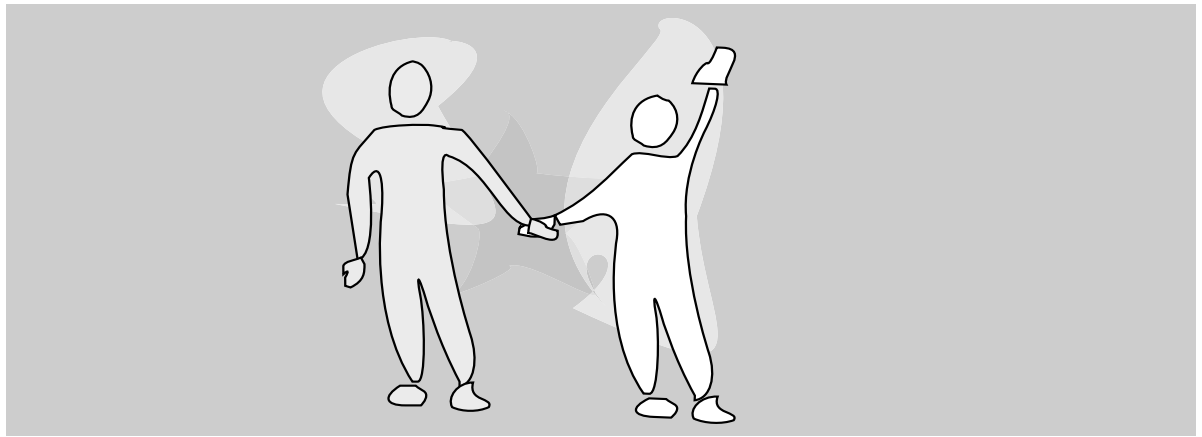
- How do adults view young people?
- How do young people view adults?
- What behaviors have you experienced in intergenerational meetings that would not be helpful in building healthy partnerships?
- What behaviors have you seen that help build strong partnerships?
- What blocks us from building effective working relationships between youth and adults?
- How can we ensure that barriers to building effective partnerships are minimized or eliminated?

step two

Explain that each group will have 2 minutes to brainstorm answers to the questions posted on the flip chart paper. Encourage groups to write down all answers, big or small. After 2 minutes, ask the groups to rotate to the next station. Rotation occurs until all groups have had the opportunity to answer each question.

step three

Ask the group to walk around the room to review each station, then ask the group to reassemble as a large group.



reflection and discussion

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

- What words or phrases caught your attention?
- What discussions did groups have as they rotated around the room?
- What gaps exist?
- What new ideas did you see?
- What concerns do you have?
- What would you say about the information to someone who is not here?
- What can you do over the next 2 weeks to begin to address a block or barrier?

trainer note: Use this information in future group meetings or as a way to check in or assess how the partnership is working. This information may be helpful when using the assessment tools in the Training Essentials section.