

# Youth Engagement

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Anchorage Youth Development Coalition

# What is Youth Engagement?

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- Think
  - Pair
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# Youth Engagement

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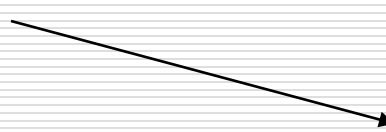
Involving young people in decisions that  
affect their lives and their  
communities

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# Youth Engagement

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○ Youth Engagement



○ Positive Interactions

n Adults

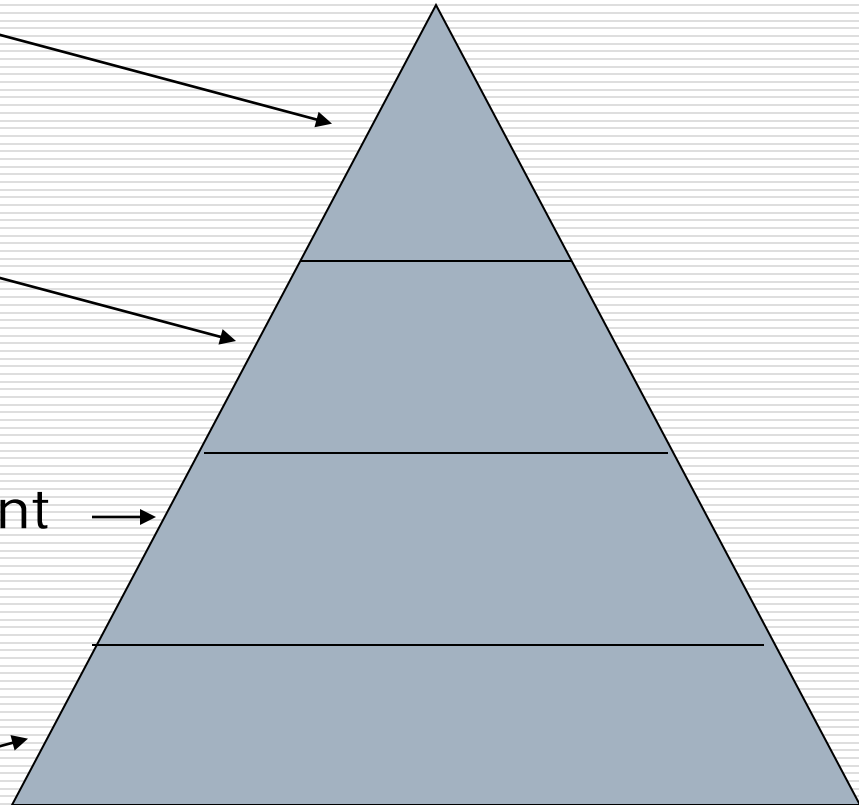
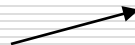
n Peers



○ Supportive Environment



○ Safe Environment



\*(Adapted from Youth PQA: Youth Worker Methods; David P Weikart Center for Youth Program Quality, 2008)

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# Youth Engagement Strategies

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- Listen to and talk with youth.
  - Give youth choice.
  - Getting feedback from youth.
  - Involve youth in decision making.
  - Establish a “mistakes allowed” environment.
  - Practice inclusiveness rather than exclusiveness.
  - Provide opportunities for youth to get involved.
  - Make yourself available.
  - Joke & laugh.
  - Help youth create their own goals.
  - Make sure your intentional.
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# Choice

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**Not enough  
choice  
(Lack of  
interest)**



**Meaningful  
choices within  
supportive  
structure**



**Too much  
choice  
(Frustration)**

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	Support high	Support low
Choice & Challenge high	Engagement	Frustration
Choice & Challenge low	Comfortable boredom	Apathy

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# What are the benefits?

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- Think
  - Pair
  - Square
-



# What are the benefits?

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- Builds a sense of belonging and connection to their communities (*Cargo et al., 2003; Checkoway et al., 2003*)
- Create civic awareness and action (*Flanagan & Van Horn, 2003*)
- Experience a sense of mastery and self-efficacy (*Eccles & Gootman, 2002; Perkins, Borden, Keith, Hoppe-Rooney, & Villarruel, 2003*)

(<http://cyfar.cas.psu.edu/PDFs/yesbookeb.pdf>, *Say Y.E.S. to Youth: Youth Engagement Strategies*; retrieved 7/30/10)

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# How can YOU engage youth?

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- Think
  - Pair
  - Square
  - Share
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# Questions?

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# Thank You!

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