



Questions for Engaging Young People through Understanding Youth Culture

We have designed the following questions to help you apply the ideas highlighted in Pathways Transition Training Video Brief 2 to your work with young people of transition age. Speakers Martin Rafferty (Executive Director of Youth ERA) and Lacy Kendrick Burk Dicharry (former Executive Director of Youth MOVE National) presented key concepts to promote youth engagement. Ideally, discuss the video and your thoughts about it with a supervisor or co-worker and consider the following questions:

1. To engage youth, it is important for service providers to work to **understand youth cultures**.
 - What are some of the notable trends in language, interests, social media, and choices of the young people you serve?
 - Think of a time that you didn't "get" why a young person was making certain choices. How did you interact with that youth to better understand the basis for these choices?
 - What else might you do to engage more effectively with young persons?
2. Lacy recommends creating an open discussion for **young people to explain their version of youth culture**.
 - What strategies could you use to learn from the youth you serve about the cultural differences that have divided you from them?
 - How can you **discover and promote potential** in young people you are attempting to engage?
3. Martin explains that **creating a youth-respectful environment** is necessary to successfully engage with young people.
 - In the setting(s) you work in, what aspects of youth cultures (art and resources being displayed; furnishings; sound; informal environment) are welcoming for young people?
 - What adjustments would result in a more welcoming environment for youth?
4. The ways young people reach out for support and assistance may differ from your own **patterns of communication**.
 - What are some of the main ways that young people you serve communicate with people who are important to them (texting, social media, video calls and chat, or others)?
 - How have you used these forms of communication positively with the youth you serve?
 - What are your greatest challenges in adapting to new forms of communication? How can you address these challenges to improve communication?



Resources for Engaging Young People through Understanding Youth Cultures

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