

YN PAR

R E S O U R C E

Frameworks for Youth Engagement



Frameworks Conceptualizing Youth and Adult Engagement

Framework Option 1

[Stepping back from 'The ladder': Reflections on a model of participatory work with children](#)

(Hart, 2008)

8 levels of youth participation:

Non-participation

1. Manipulation
2. Decoration
3. Tokenism

Degrees of participation

4. Assigned but informed
5. Consulted and informed
6. Adult-initiated, shared decisions with children
7. Youth-initiated and directed

Youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults

Framework Option 2

[Increasing student voice in high school reform: Building partnerships, improving outcomes](#)

(Mitra & Gross, 2009)

Pyramid of student voice:

➡ 'Being heard'

- Bottom level of the pyramid
- Most common and most basic form of youth voice (e.g., school personnel listen to youth about their experiences in their school)

➡ 'Collaborating with adults'

- Middle level of the pyramid
- Youth work with adults to make changes in the environment (e.g., collecting data on school problems and implementing solutions)

➡ 'Building capacity for leadership'

- Top level of the pyramid

Explicit focus on enabling youth to share in the leadership of the youth voice initiative

Framework Option 3

[A practice matrix for involving young people in evaluation: Possibilities and considerations](#)

(Richards-Schuster & Plachta Elliott, 2019)

Matrix framework to visualize youth participation in evaluation:

- ➡ Youth as Consultants (most common)
 - Youth share opinions with adults
- ➡ Youth as Collaborators
 - Youth engaged in parts, but not all of evaluation
- ➡ Youth as Partners
 - Youth work alongside adults in development and implementation of evaluation, with attempts to create equal power
- ➡ Youth as Leaders
 - Young people lead an evaluation themselves and adults serve as coaches or critical friends

Framework Option 4

[Children's participation: From tokenism to citizenship](#)

(Hart, 1992)

Ladder of participation

1. Manipulation
 2. Decoration
 3. Tokenism
 4. Assigned but informed
 5. Consulted and informed
 6. Adult-initiated, shared decisions with youth
 7. Youth-initiated and directed
- Youth-initiated, shared decisions with adults