

Introductory Meeting

Packet of information on the content of topic, handouts, and cards for activity will be given to YAC leaders at each school.

Review handout above.

ACTIVITY:

Tell students that we are going to do an activity to discuss the benefits and challenges of using a Youth/Adult Partnership. Draw a line down the center of easel paper. Label one column "Benefits" and the other "Challenges." Distribute cards to students. As a group, ask them to tape each card under benefits or challenges column on the easel paper. After the cards have been taped up, review the lists. You can move the cards to the opposite column if students change their minds. Then ask the students if there are additional benefits they would like to add to the list—write these in the free space on the "benefits" side. Ask the students if there are additional challenges they would like to add to the list—write these in the free space on the "challenges" side.

KEY for Activity

Benefits:

- 1) Creating new relationships with adults and peers
- 2) Gaining a better understanding of the needs of youth
- 3) Gaining new skills youth will need to become successful adults
- 4) Feeling more independent and improved self-esteem
- 5) Beginning to view the world, and their ability to affect it, in a positive way
- 6) Greater commitment from youth in the program

Challenges:

- 1) Youth feel intimidated and afraid to share ideas in group with adults
- 2) Thinking that adults can't understand what youth go through
- 3) Adults believe the stereotypes about youth instead of getting to know them
- 4) Leadership may not be appealing to youth
- 5) Mismatch between youth skills and adult expectations of them
- 6) Adults want to control the group