

# QUALITY TIPS FOR QUALITY PROGRAMS

Quality Tips for Quality Programs (QTQP) is a series of short tips created by the Youth Development Advisory Committee (YDAC) for YEN programs to consider.

March 10, 2017

## A LOOK AT



## SENIORITIS

sen·ior·i·tis

\, sē-nyər-ˈī-təs\

*noun: humorous*

According to the Merriam-Webster Dictionary, “senioritis” is an ebbing of motivation and effort by high school seniors as evidenced by tardiness, absences, and lower grades. They should probably add, “decreased participation in YEN programs” as well!

## DEALING WITH SENIORITIS

The YDAC asked YEN providers how they are dealing with high-school seniors whose participation in their programs has dropped in the second half of the year. These youth seem to be more concerned with prom, sports, work, or simply have a bad case of “senioritis.” Here is what providers said.

### Ways YEN providers are “treating” senioritis:

- **Reminding them that their grades still count and offer to help:** Many seniors slack off on schoolwork because they think that, since they have already been accepted into college, they do not have to worry about their GPA. Gently remind them that colleges look at all four years of high school transcripts and can rescind their acceptance and/or scholarship awards. In their new “lazier” state, youth may find that working with a tutor to “just get the assignment done” might be more appealing now than it was earlier in the year.
- **Creating a “Class of 2017” group:** As always, listening to your youth and planning activities that meet their interests is key to engagement. Some programs have addressed workforce and college preparation throughout the year, but have found that it might be time to check in again to see what seniors are interested in now. Creating a group that addresses youths’ new interests and highlights their status as seniors might just be what the doctor ordered to treat this epidemic. For example, life skill sessions in which youth can use creativity as well as planning and budgeting skills to prepare for the prom may rekindle their interest in your program. This can include researching various modes of transportation, pricing beauty services, and going on field trips to places that offer lower-cost prom dresses and/or tuxedos.
- **Adjusting program schedule:** Many YEN providers have adjusted their schedules to accommodate the changing needs of their youth. Some programs have increased the number of days they offer programs and shortened the hours per day. Others repeat each activity twice per week so that youth have the option of when to attend. Some providers have even decided to hold sessions over the weekend when youth may have more time.

Thank you to all the YEN providers who shared their strategies with the YDAC! For more information on QTQP, contact Project RISE’s Associate Director of Youth Development, Dr. Diana Lores, at [dlores@nova.edu](mailto:dlores@nova.edu).