

QUALITY TIPS FOR QUALITY PROGRAMS

YPQA HELPFUL HINTS

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. YPQA Helpful Hints are designed to help programs score better on the Youth Program Quality Assessment (YPQA) one item at a time.

January 30, 2017

A LOOK



AT THE YPQA ITEM

LEARNING FOCUS LINKED TO ACTIVITY

Your activity will score a 5 if:

Staff tells youth a specific learning or skill-building focus for the session or activity (e.g., objective, learning target, goal) and the focus is clearly linked to the activity (e.g., students do activity related to focus, language from focus is described in activity).

Your activity will score a 3 if:

Staff tells youth a specific learning or skill-building focus for the session or activity (e.g., objective, learning target, goal) but the focus is not clearly linked to the activity.

Your activity will score a 1 if:

Staff never mentions a specific learning or skill-building focus for the session or activity (e.g., objective, learning target, goal).

LEARNING FOCUS LINKED TO ACTIVITY

This is the first item of the "Skill-Building" scale found under the Supportive Environment domain. Usually stated at the beginning of the activity, this item asks staff to tell the youth what they will learn or what skill they will practice during the activity. The learning focus can be learning or practicing any skills (writing, researching, interviewing, presenting, drawing, sprinting, painting, planning, etc.).

DOS and DON'TS to score a 5 almost every time:

- **Do** tell the youth what they will learn or what skill they will practice. ("We are playing basketball, but today, we are going to practice jump shots.") **Don't** simply tell them what they will be doing. ("Today we are going to play basketball.") This will score a 1.
- **Don't** tell the youth that you will focus on learning something and then do something totally different. This will score a 3.
- **Do** use phrases like:
 - "our goal is to ____"
 - "we will practice the skill of ____"
 - "we will learn about ____"
- **Do** include a "learning focus" on your lesson plan so that you remember what it is.
- **Do** write the learning focus on whiteboard, blackboard, chart paper, PowerPoint presentation, or worksheets that you will be using during the activity. This is a great practice so even if you forget to mention it, the youth will see it posted.

For questions or more information on these YPQA Helpful Hints, contact Project RISE's Associate Director of Youth Development, Dr. Diana Lores, at dlores@nova.edu.