

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.

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A LOOK



AT THE YPQA ITEM

YOUTH TALK ABOUT ACTIVITIES

Your activity will score a 5 if:

During activities, staff provide all youth a structured opportunity to talk about (or otherwise communicate) what they are doing and what they are thinking about to others (e.g., each youth explains the reasoning behind their design, staff assign youth to small groups to work on a shared task).

Your activity will score a 3 if:

During activities, staff provide some youth a structured opportunity to talk about what they are doing and what they are thinking about to others.

Your activity will score a 1 if:

During activities, staff do not provide any youth structured opportunities to talk about what they are doing and what they are thinking about to others.

YOUTH TALK ABOUT ACTIVITIES

This is the second item of the "active engagement" scale found under the Supportive Environment domain. The key words in this item are "during activities" and "structured opportunity." When staff ensure that youth have time to express their ideas as they are working, youth have an opportunity to practice putting their ideas into words, evaluate what they are doing as they work, and alter their plans as they see fit.

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

Do

- Circulate among the youth and ask each and every youth about the work they are doing, whether they look like they need help or not. Staff tend to focus their efforts on youth who are struggling, but all youth can benefit from expressing their ideas in a variety of ways.
- Pair youth to discuss at least one part of what they are doing
- Encourage small groups in which youth have to share their ideas in order to create one group project.
- Encourage youth to write down, draw, or otherwise express their ideas. Non-verbal ways to communicate what they are doing or thinking are also valuable.

Don't wait until the end of the session to encourage youth to express their ideas as they present their work to one another. If all youth present, the session will score a 5 in "Youth have structured opportunities to present to a group," but not in "Youth talk about activities." This item requires that youth express their ideas while they are working, not after.

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.