

Hart's Ladder

Hart's Ladder is an assessment tool to be used to measure authentic youth engagement in a given program or initiative. While the goal is to see an increase over time; it is important to remember that youth's engagement may move up and down the different stages at any given time – that is okay – the aim is to move toward youth-led activities.

8

Youth-led activities, in which decision making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners

7

Youth-led activities with little input from adults

6

Adult-led activities, in which decision making is shared with youth

5

Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions

4

Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role

3

Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback

2

Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input into planning

1

Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without explanation of the purpose for the activities