



Tips for Engaging Youth in Virtual Spaces

This Tip Sheet will provide YARG Grantees with recommendations regarding training strategies and student-centered learning to effectively engage youth in the virtual space.

Training Strategies in Virtual Spaces

- 💡 Keep events and learning opportunities short, concise, and simple
- 💡 Take a look at current policies or rules, especially around length and time given for assignments, and see if they can become more flexible with virtual learning
- 💡 Send reminder texts before a virtual event
- 💡 Expect that technology will fail; practice, practice, and practice again to ensure the platform works, etc.
- 💡 Find photos and other visuals to use while facilitating and/or lecturing
- 💡 For virtual meeting platforms, utilize the polling option and other features such as break-out rooms to keep learning and engagement focused

Student-Centered Support in Virtual Spaces

- 💡 Create a space that is supportive of emotional processing
- 💡 Consider the student with the greatest barriers to participation and create a virtual experience for them in a way where participation and success will be achieved
- 💡 Have a technology 'check out' – give permission for youth to disengage in virtual learning for set amount of time
- 💡 Create a confidential way to conduct a safety check-in, as some homes are not always safe spaces
- 💡 Engage youth in self-care practices – conduct short learnings before and after events for youth to better understand how anxiety and stress impact the mind, body, and overall outlook
- 💡 Combine virtual and non-virtual engagement methods (e.g., sending activity packets, self-care items, or other items that can be used during a "virtual" session - or sending letters/cards or dropping off basic needs supplies)

Resources

Community/Learning

- 💡 <https://youthcollaboratory.org/sites/default/files/attachments/2020-06/Engaging%20Young%20People%20Virtually%20Tip%20Sheet%20%281%29.pdf>
- 💡 <https://uywi.org/6-creative-ways-to-engage-youth-during-social-distancing/>
- 💡 <https://www.apa.org/ed/schools/teaching-learning/recommendations-starting-school-covid-19.pdf>

Systemic/Mentoring

- 💡 <https://www.mentoring.org/coronavirus-resources/>
- 💡 <https://www.mentoring.org/ementoring/>
- 💡 <https://www.mentoring.org/workplace-mentoring-supplement-to-the-elements-of-effective-practice-for-mentoring/>

Virtual Training and Engagement Webinars

- 💡 <https://youthbuild.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/05/19/12/29/Region-6-Strategies-for-Operating-the-YouthBuild-Program-In-a-Virtual-Environment>
- 💡 <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/06/18/13/10/Resources-on-Virtual-Engagement>
- 💡 <https://youth.workforcegps.org/resources/2020/06/18/20/00/Resources-on-Virtual-Engagement-part-2>