



Pondering the Perspective of Youth

AWARENESS AND COMPARISON OF BOTH PERSPECTIVES		
CATEGORY	ADULT PROFESSIONAL	TRANSITION AGE FOSTER YOUTH
COMPENSATION	For adult professionals, their workplace will likely compensate them for time spent on this project.	For youth, a stipend should be provided from the organization asking for their help and support.
TRANSPORTATION	This might be easy for an adult professional.	For youth, transportation can often be a barrier and a sacrifice. Consider providing gas cards or other transportation support.
TIME AND AVAILABILITY	9-5 on a weekday often works well for adult professionals.	For youth, 9-5 can be the very worst time because they are at school or work.
RIGIDITY OF SCHEDULE	Since adult professionals are often working within a 40 hour a week time block, and this is a part of their paid work, having a rigid schedule might not be a problem.	For youth, rigid schedules don't allow for or show an understanding of the existing commitments and complications of the lives of teens or young adults such as work, school, maintaining housing, building a future without family support.
ADDITIONAL AVAILABILITY	Being available 4-8 additional hours per month might be doable for a paid professional.	This commitment might be a lot to ask of a young person who might be currently taking full-time college course loads.
DURATION OF COMMITMENT	A three-year commitment might not be unreasonable for a paid professional who is doing this as part of their job.	A three-year commitment is a lot to ask for a young person who is currently focusing on building a future without support, healing from trauma as it resurfaces, etc.
MANDATED INTERVIEWS	Are the adult professionals who are serving as fellow council members being subjected to this level of scrutiny?	This is not a job, it's a volunteer opportunity. Think about the emotional impact on youth if they interview and are rejected.
MESSAGING	The wording of these messages are often written in corporate language.	None of the information that we as youth are looking for is there. <i>What are the goals, what can we have a voice on? How will this help and benefit our younger siblings of the foster care system?</i>