

# Youth Voice Readiness Assessment for Youth Councils

Based on Youth on Board's publication.

**Use this tool with your Youth Council as a guide to help give direction and to help understand tasks guide commitment to this initiative.**

**YES** = We do this already, and don't need assistance

**NO** = We don't do this yet and want to develop next steps to move forward

**N/A** = This is not applicable to us

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## 1. Know why you want to involve youth on your Youth Council

Has your youth council thought about why you are involving young people?

Yes	No	N/A

Have you articulated these thoughts to others verbally, or in writing (such as in a mission statement)?

Yes	No	N/A

## 2. Assess Your Readiness

Have you talked with and assessed the commitment of the WIB?

Yes	No	N/A

Have you talked with and assessed the commitment of young people?

Yes	No	N/A

Is the Youth Council willing to adjust their culture to make things youth-friendly?

Yes	No	N/A

## 3. Determine Your Model for Youth Involvement

Have you considered involving youth directly on your Youth Council?

Yes	No	N/A

Have you considered creating an all-youth body such as a youth advisory committee or youth task force?

Yes	No	N/A

Will the youth be involved in any decision-making processes?

Yes	No	N/A

**4. Identify Organizational Barriers**

Have you discussed changing the meeting times and places to accommodate young people?

Yes	No	N/A
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Has transportation issues for youth to and from meetings been discussed and resolved?

Yes	No	N/A
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Have you thought about providing a stipend for the youth? Where will the funds come from?

Yes	No	N/A
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Are you willing to push for policies to promote youth voice?

Yes	No	N/A
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**5. Overcome Attitudinal Barriers – Adults**

Does the Youth Council understand that youth members do not represent the voice of all young people?

Yes	No	N/A
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Have you considered your own negative stereotypes about young people?

Yes	No	N/A
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Have you considered adjusting your professional “adult” language to ideas that young people can better understand?

Yes	No	N/A
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**6. Recruitment of Youth**

Have you thought about your recruitment criteria?

Yes	No	N/A
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When recruiting members, will you recruit in ways to attract a diverse group of young people?

Yes	No	N/A
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Part of the appeal for youth is the social aspect. Have you included casual interaction time together as part of your plan?

Yes	No	N/A
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**7. Create a Strong Orientation Process**

Is there an Orientation system in place?

Yes	No	N/A
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Do you have a written description of the role you are asking the youth to take on the Youth Council?

Yes	No	N/A
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**8. Training Youth for Their Roles**

Have you clearly defined how you want the youth to contribute?

Yes	No	N/A
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Will there be training on topics such as how boards operate, rules of meetings, and presenting to groups?

Yes	No	N/A
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For advisory and task force groups, will there be training on their roles and responsibilities? Skill training for specific tasks they will be asked to perform?

Yes	No	N/A
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**9. Training for Adults**

Is there training for adults on understanding young people and being strong allies?

Yes	No	N/A
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**10. Developing a Mentoring Plan**

Is there a Mentoring system in place?

Yes	No	N/A
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Do mentors know what is expected of them? Mentors should make certain that new members attend meetings and have the support they need.

Yes	No	N/A
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**11. Address Legal Issues**

Can young people legally serve on your Youth Council?

Yes	No	N/A
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Although many Youth Councils do not enter into legal contracts, it is important to note age-specific contract laws exist. Do you know the contract laws in your area?

Yes	No	N/A
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**12. Making Meetings Work**

Do you make sure that youth are given the opportunity to speak on all issues?

Yes	No	N/A
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