

Youth OST Focus Group Protocols and Questions

1. Check students in and give them name tags
2. Encourage them to help themselves to food and drinks
3. Welcome students and introduce Caitlin and Melanie/Michelle
4. Ask students to introduce themselves and tell us something about themselves (their favorite activity, what kind of sports you like, what kind of music you like, your favorite athlete, entertainer, etc.)
5. Briefly explain what a focus group is, why we are doing focus groups with students, and how the focus group is going to work
 - A focus group is a tool/method for obtaining information/opinions on a specific subject
 - We want to know your opinions and ideas about out-of-school time programming for students
 - We're going to ask you a series of questions and want you to tell us what you think
 - There is no right or wrong answer or opinion --- we want you to tell us about your experience with afterschool and out of school time programs, why you go, why you don't go, what you like, what you don't like, if you could design and run your own afterschool program what would it be like
 - Your comments can be about programs that you are currently in or programs that you were in when you were younger or went to a different school
 - We are going to record your comments and share them with community leaders who are meeting to discuss how to improve the quality of afterschool programs for all students
6. What do you do after school, on weekends, school breaks, during the summer etc.?
7. If they participate in programs, ask what kind of programs/activities?
8. Ask how they pick the programs they participate in?
 - Do they select the programs or do their parents/guardians?
9. What do you like about the programs that you have participated in?
10. What don't you like about the programs that you participated in?
11. What would have made them more fun or more interesting?

12. Are there programs you would like to participate in but don't? Arts and culture (art, music, dance) If so, what are they? And why don't you participate in them?

- No money, too expensive
- No transportation
- No one to go with --- my friends are interested

13. If you stay home, ask what do you do at home and how do they like it?

14. If you don't currently participate in programs, why not?

- Don't know what there is to do
- No money, too expensive
- No transportation
- No one to go with --- my friends aren't interested
- It's not "cool"

15. What type/kind of programs/activities would motivate you to try them?

- Sports
- Academic
- Arts and culture (art, music, dance, drumming, etc.)
- Leadership
- Community service
- Mentoring

16. Where would you want these programs to be located?

- School
- Churches
- Neighborhoods

17. How would you like these programs to be staffed?

18. Would you want these programs to be available:

- Before school?
- After school?
- On weekends?
- During school breaks?
- In the summer?

19. What skills or quality do you think you need to be successful in school or to get a job when you get older?

20. Do you think afterschool program can help you to acquire or master those skills?

21. How do you think afterschool programs could help you?