Empowering Youth: Identifying and Framing Community Problems

By: David Keller and Justin Kirschner

Ohio University Voinovich School of Leadership and Public Affairs
Workshop Agenda

• Introduction

• Research Process

• Youth Empowerment

• Conclusion

• Interactive Activity
Collaboration and Empowerment Through Research

• The Power of Stories

• Qualitative Methodology

• What’s Right for Your Research?

• Ownership IS Empowerment!
Students’ Role in Research

• Professional
  — Being Prepared
  — Being a Teamplayer
  — Building Rapport
  — Tolerance for Diversity

• Academic
  — Researcher
  — Learner (Adaptable to Change)
Framing Your Research

Orient your research - Ask the “How” & “What’s”

Assemble Your Research Question

Interview Questions

Compile Results

Design/Launch Your Program

Collect Feedback!

Feedback Loop

Research Phase

Research Flow
Framing Your Issue

• What is your issue?

• Research vs. Interview Questions
  – Research → What do you want to know?
  – Interview → How you collect the information/data!

• Framing with ‘what’s’ and ‘how’s’?
What to Consider

• People
  – Relevant Stakeholders

• Places
  – Neutral and comfortable spaces for both interviewers and interviewees
  – Observing social structures

• Flexibility
  – Bringing the conversation back
  – Keep in mind the purpose of the interview
Data-Driven Project Design

• What Does the Data Suggest?
• Research must inform action!
• Don’t forget the Feedback!
Reflecting on Experience

• Analyzing Data and Generating Ideas
  – Organizing Data
  – Making connections
  – Solutions MUST be informed by data

• Feedback Loop

• Reflection
Spreading Awareness

**Formal Presentations**
- PowerPoint
- Prezi

**Print Deliverables**
- Posters
- Flyers

**Film**
- PSA
- Youtube

**Digital Deliverables**
- E-Mails
- Social Media

The best student-centered learning experience in America
What is Youth Empowerment?

• Ownership of one’s decisions, actions, research findings and initiatives

• Personal Character and Skill Development Outcomes
  - Self-Awareness  - Communication and Collaboration
  - Confidence       - Problem-Solving

• Cultivating community connections and creating greater change

• Developing positive character, social values and norms

• Having a collective sense of belonging and youth voice at the table
Effective Empowerment Practices

• Facilitation and Mentorship

• Resource Support System

• Setting the appropriate structure - Expectations and Goals

• Foster Trust and Respect

• Inclusive Project Environment
  – All youth have a perspective and a voice
  – Community Call to Action
  – Spread awareness
Conclusion

• It is important to understand the HOW or WHAT of your issue

• Research is about collecting relevant data and making logical connections

• Projects/programs must be informed by research and presented in an organized, aesthetically appealing way

• Empower youth by showing how their efforts can impact their community and as a by-product, the real-world skills they will develop
Thank You and Empower On!