



Akron
Urban League

POLICE-YOUTH RELATIONS

City of Akron Health Equity Summit
May 17, 2023

US DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE



Last Summer the DOJ reached out to AUL to bring a group of young adults together to facilitate a dialogue around their concerns



Over 40 young adults ages 16-26 met at the Akron Urban League to express their concerns



The DOJ took notes from the discussion and sent developed a report out of their findings



Four major themes were highlighted in the DOJ report based on the dialogue

YOUNG ADULT'S - REPORT THEMES

Police Accountability

Police Use of Force

School Systems

Mental Health

“CHANGE MAKERS” IN AKRON

DATES OF SESSIONS:

April 25 & 27

May 16 & 18

June 13 & 15

July 25 & 27

August 15 & 17

September 19 & 21

October 17 & 19

November 14 & 16

December 5 & 7

SESSION FACILITATORS:

Dr. Erica Glover

Kenny “Jo Jo” Smith

[Change Makers Session 1 and 2](#)

WHAT IS STUDENT VOICE?

The ways in which students influence or participate in educational/community decision-making.

WHY STUDENT VOICE?

According to recent research, student voice can be positively linked to:



Academic outcomes and
can deepen student
engagement



Feelings of autonomy,
relatedness/belonging, and
competence



Improving student-teacher
relationships. It can help build
mutual
trust and respect.

Community-Oriented Policing

A philosophy that promotes organizational strategies which support the systematic use of partnerships and problem-solving techniques, to proactively address the immediate conditions that give rise to public safety issues such as crime, social disorder, and fear of crime.

Community policing relies on collaborative partnerships between the law enforcement agency and the individuals and organizations they serve to develop the solutions to problems and increase trust in police; the alignment of organization management, structure, personnel, and information systems to support community partnerships and proactive problem-solving efforts must be achieved.

PROGRAM GOALS

Empower young adults to be part of the solution through the Young Adult Council's direct engagement in leadership and advocacy activities.

Encourage young adults to be a leader and voice for change for healthier communities and schools.

Promote young adults to advise the community and school decision makers.

Promote young adults to have and receive respect and empathy with family, friends and peers.

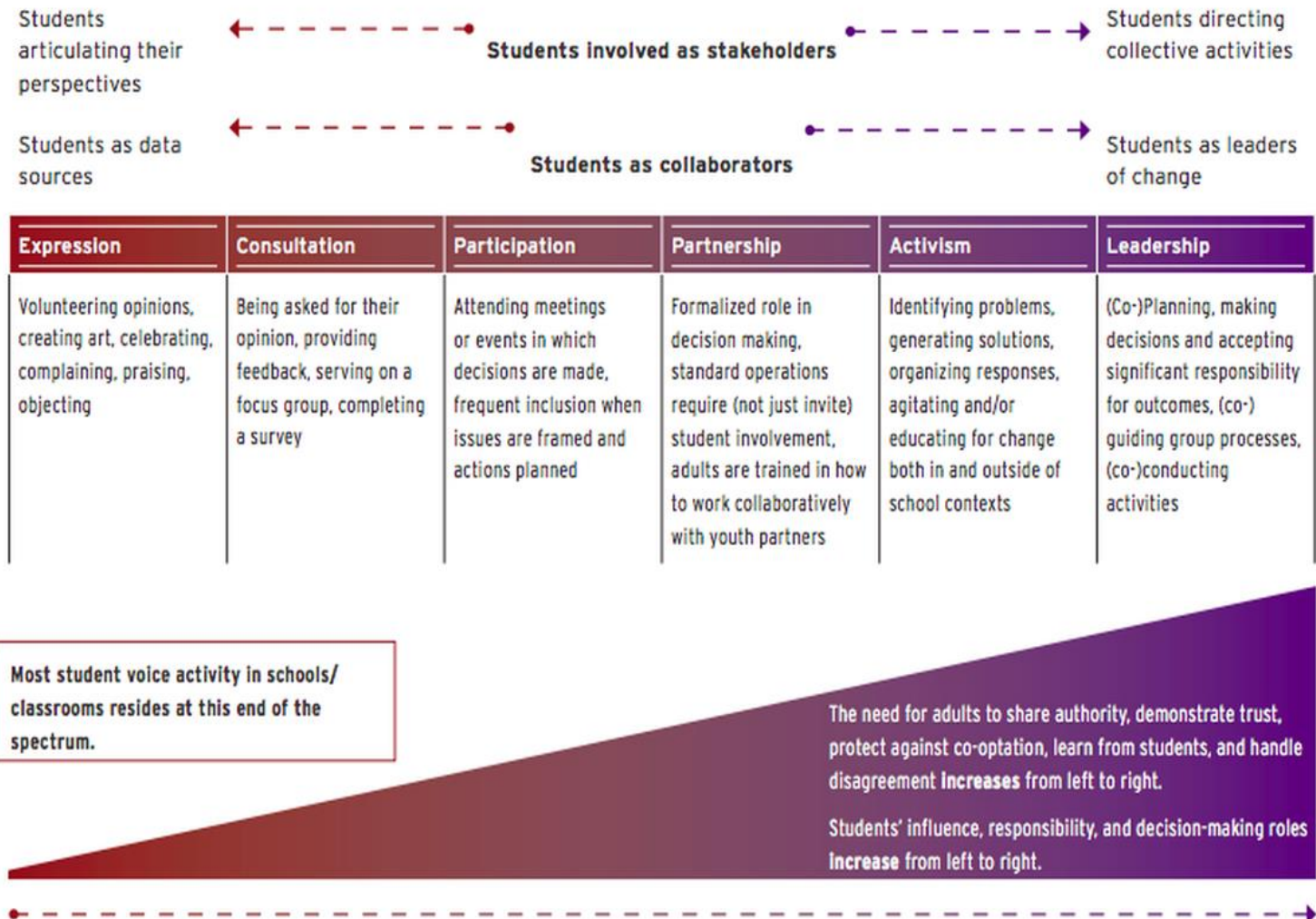
YPAR DEFINED

Youth Participation Action Research (YPAR) offers a system and structure for centering youth voice, exploring and acting on issues that impact their lives. YPAR is a process of inquiry rooted in anti-oppression and liberatory practices that redefines and reframe who has the authority

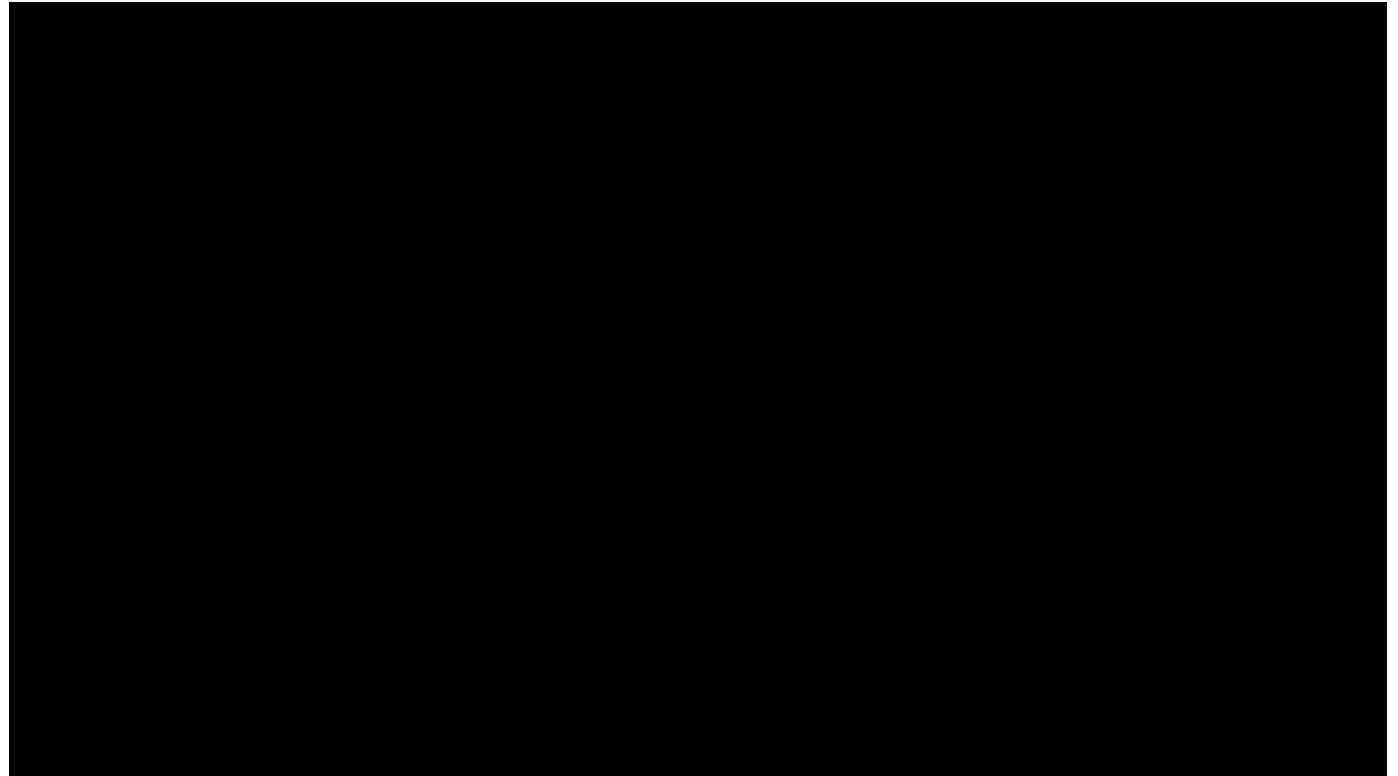
YPAR PROJECT STEPS

1. Political education
2. Identify the problem
3. Preliminary data collection (learning about the context of local settings)
 - Quantitative data collection
 - Qualitative (observation) data collection
4. Pose a question
5. Identify what tools are needed to answer the question
6. Data collection
7. Collective analysis of the data
8. Draw conclusions (Findings)

YOUTH PARTICIPATOR ACTION RESEARCH (YPAR)



APS CHANGE MAKER: Elliot Jackson



ANY
Questions?

