

Confronting Concerns II - Youth Forum

Session #3

Agenda- June 2th, 2007

11:00 am – 11:15 am – Registration

11:15 am – 11:35 am – Warm Up Activity

- Lap Sit
- Tug of War
- Object Transformation

11:35 – 12:15 – Main Activity # 1: Tools of Leadership

1. In advance, print out 4 different pictures of animals, tools, or objects that may represent leadership in one way or another.
2. Hang 4 of the pictures in different parts of the room. Tell participants to stand in front of the picture that they feel best represents the kind of leader that they consider themselves to be. Give participants 1 – 2 minutes each to share their ideas.
3. Next, ask participants to think about the leaders in their communities. Have them share who they think the leaders are in their communities (teachers, priests, parents, politicians, etc.) Next, tell them to go in front of the picture they think best describes the leaders in their community.
4. Next, ask participants to identify who some of the national and international leaders are. Ask them to go in front on the picture that they think best describes those leaders.
5. Finally, ask participants to stand in front of the picture that represents the type of leader that they would like to be. Have them share the qualities of the object that represent good leadership qualities.
6. Processing Questions:
 - a. What did you think about this activity?
 - b. What is activism
 - c. What is the connection between leadership and activism?
 - d. What ways do you think young people take on leadership roles already in their communities.

12:15 pm – 12:45 pm – Defining Youth Activism and Leadership

1. Divide participants into groups of about 4-6 people each.
2. Distribute newsprint and markers to each.
3. Instruct small groups to define "activism" and to write their definition on the newsprint.
4. They can also add a list of words they associate with activism.
5. Have the groups share their definitions with the larger group.

Processing (5 min.)

What does "youth activism" mean?

What resources/strategies are needed to accomplish activism? (record answers on the board)

Hand out "10 Tools for Social Change" list & review- are there any they would add (e.g., gather members, identify allies)?

12:45pm – 1:30 pm – Making Blueprints for Community Change

Procedure (25 min)

1. Give each group a sheet of paper and a pen or marker. In their small groups, participants should identify one concern facing their community that they would like to address (by their community, it can mean their racial, ethnic, religious, etc.).
2. Explain that each group will create a plan of action laying out how they would address the issue. In the groups they must answer the following questions:
 - What is the problem?
 - Why is it a problem? How is it impacting the community?
 - Does it only affect your community? If not, who else is does it effect?
 - What can be done about it (please be very specific about what actions you would take to address this problem—i.e. hold a voter education/registration day at a school or sponsor a teach-in session on community's culture)?
 - Who/what do you need to address this issue (once again, be very specific---i.e. don't just say, "people", list which specific people such as Council people, human rights activists, etc.)
 - How will they get these resources that they need to address the issue?
 - What challenges might they face in confronting these issues?
3. Give participants 15 minutes to create their blueprints followed by group presentations.

Processing (15 min)

What did you think of this activity?

Were there any common themes in the blueprints?

How realistic are these blue prints? Would these blue prints work in the real world?

Are there any methods that might work that you didn't see in the blue prints?

In the real world, what are some challenges to activism and organizing?

Are there any challenges specific to youth activism in our community?

What can we, as youth, do to change social injustices in our lives?

Are there any other communities or individuals that Harlem youth can work with to address our issues?

1:30 pm – 2:00pm : Planning for Presentation to Adults