

Activity One: See What Exists

Youth engagement happens when young people have sustained connections anywhere in their life.

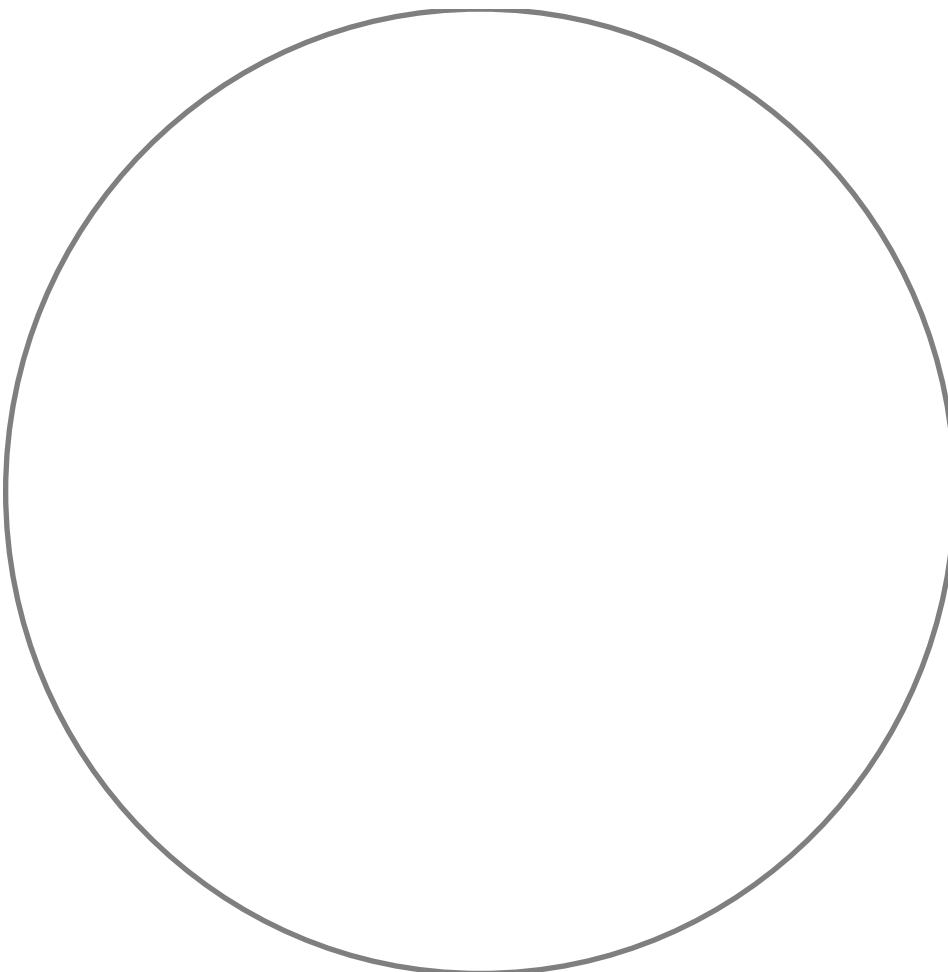
In the new *A Short Introduction to Youth Engagement*, Adam Fletcher proposes that all youth are already engaged. Following are some important points from the booklet, which is free online at <http://bit.ly/192BPUq>.

IMPORTANT POINTS

- DON'T treat young people like blank slates.
- DO acknowledge that children and youth live complex lives.
- DON'T neglect, deny, or forget that youth are *already* engaged.
- DO realize that when you ask youth to become engaged in something specific, they are asking them to disengage from something else.
- DON'T forget that youth frequently don't know there are other things they can be engaging in than what they're currently engaged in.
- DO remember that your youth engagement activity should be a value-added for youth.

EXERCISE: Seeing Youth Reality

The following circle is a pie chart waiting to happen! Use the list of different places youth can become engaged to fill in the circle to show the percentage of time a *typical* youth in your organization or community spends *engaged* in each area. Add different items if needed.



- Home
- School
- Sports
- Work
- Church
- Recreation
- Politics
- Religion
- Health
- Friends
- Family
- Romantic relationships
- Neighborhood
- Social
- Cultural
- Other learning
- Economic
- Volunteering