

Activity Two: Systems of Youth Engagement

A system of youth engagement is a set of connected parts forming a complex whole that supports young people forming sustained connections in their lives. In the new *A Short Introduction to Youth Engagement*, Adam Fletcher proposes these systems already exist—informally.

These systems can include, but aren't limited to, formal and informal parts. This includes:

- Families
- Education
- Healthcare
- Social services
- Recreation
- Faith communities
- Cultural activities
- Work
- Civic action
- Mental health services
- Juvenile justice
- Transportation
- Housing
- Nature and the environment

The booklet is free online at <http://bit.ly/192BPUq>.

Exercise: Mapping a Youth Engagement System

1. Think about a day in the life of a one youth in your organization or community
2. Draw a map in the box below illustrating a TYPICAL youth engagement system they might experience.
3. Start with waking up and go through the day to the end of their day.



Reflection Questions

- What are the connections between different parts of this system?
- Where are the disconnections between different parts of this system?
- What systems or individuals are missing from this map?