

9 things to know before launching a middle school youth engagement team

**Authentic Middle School Youth Engagement in SRTS
SRTS National Partnership Webinar**

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Call for Stories - <http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/high-school-cyclists/>

i ii iii

Foundation

1 2 3

Who are we?

4 5 6

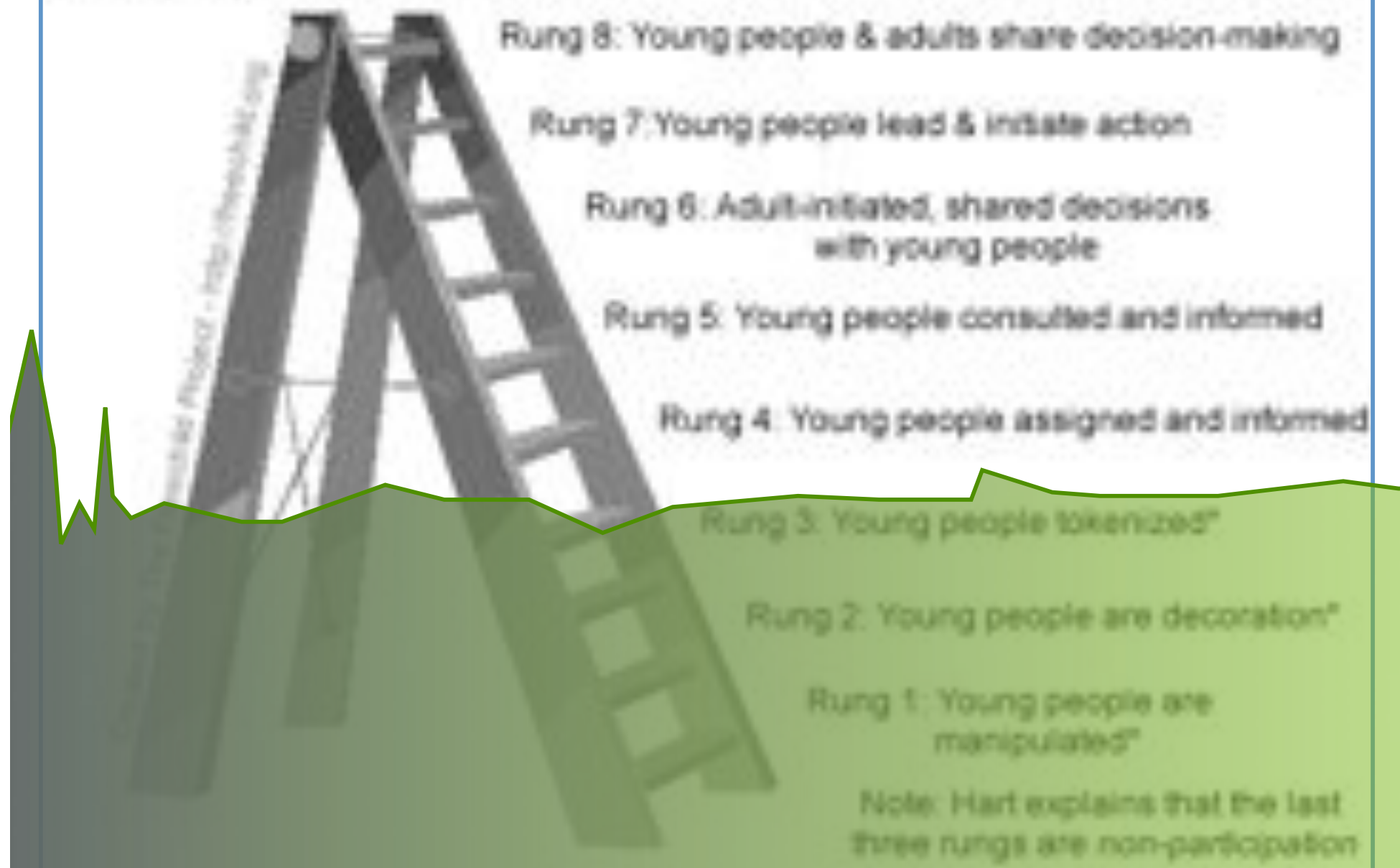
What are we trying to achieve?

7 8 9

What will be our greatest success?

<http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/9-things-know-middle-school-youth-engagement/>

Roger Hart's Ladder of Young People's Participation



Adapted from Hart, R. (1992). *Children's Participation from Tokenism to Citizenship*. Florence: UNICEF Innocent Research Centre.



<http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/using-harts-ladder-to-walk-bike-to-school/>

Youth Engagement that is Authentic





FLINT:

fun learning is not trivial



Positive emotions are conducive to creativity, expansion & looking for & seizing opportunities. Psychology for a Better World Niki Harré



**‘discipline’ is best prevented
through relationship-building**

1

Power Dynamics & Discipline

<http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/ch-10-learning-without-teaching-youth-led-programs-to-reduce-car-trips-to-school/>



get permission to establish lines of communication ...for reminders & support when you're not there



**find ways to establish your identity
while documenting the process**



**make space for people to gracefully
'opt out'**

4

The rule of 5/8 - reduce the stress, increase the support

Middle School Confidential: Be Confident in Who You Are <http://www.anniefox.com/books/msc1.html>



KNOW WHY
practice being able to say it, act it, BE it

5

Elevator Speech - empowerME@school Facilitator's Guide
Stepping It Up - Drama Activity <http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/stepping-it-up/>



PDA

Public Display of Authority

6 Constructivist Teaching: learners are actively involved in learning how to learn
"The Road to Knowledge is Always Under Construction" Audrey Gray, 1977



How would you like your Active School Travel program to look?

Posted:

MAR 04, 2013

Comments: 2

Author: Arthur

Perceptions of an Active School Travel Student Leader Group

We're beginning to wrap-up preparations for the student leader active school travel program in three Surrey, BC elementary schools. So that means it is time to start envisioning how these groups of young leaders want to be perceived by their peers.

Yesterday the students working to put together the active school travel program at Forcyth Rd. Elementary selected from 16 adjectives and had a combined 'vote' to be seen as **Friendly**, **Knowledgeable** and **Creative**.

If some of the choices seem similar, it's to better allow students to contribute to show themselves across



Don't Assume

Vision + Skills + Incentives+ Resources + Action Plan = Change					
	Skills +	Incentives+	Resources +	Action Plan =	CONFUSION
Vision +		Incentives+	Resources +	Action Plan =	ANXIETY
Vision +	Skills +		Resources +	Action Plan =	GRADUAL CHANGE
Vision +	Skills +	Incentives+		Action Plan =	FRUSTRATION
Vision +	Skills +	Incentives+	Resources +		FALSE START

How Will We Know?



Begin with some low-hanging fruit

9

<http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/is-youth-engagement-in-srts-worth-the-time/>

Session
1

Session
2

Session
3

1) The Context for
our New Group

2) Our Diverse Points
of View

3) Getting Ready to
Begin



**A) More Walk, More
Roll**
*(more walking/bicycling
trips to school)*

B) Safety First
*(safer walk/bicycle
school zone)*

C) For Earth's Sake!
*(reduced pollution/
carbon footprint)*

Session
4

4 (A) How students
get to school

4 (B) Traffic Safety in
our Neighborhood

4 (C) Traffic
Congestion at the
School

Session
5

5 (A) Preparing to
Tally and Survey
the students

5 (B) Preparing to
Conduct a Walk/
Bicycle Audit

5 (C) Preparing to
Conduct a Vehicle
Count

<http://www.casaferoutestoschool.org/>

What if our work was to support children & youths in being “happy with their life”?

urban
thinkers

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<http://www.urbanthinkers.ca/adult-facilitator-training/youth-engagement-coaching/>