



RECIPE FOR

SCENARIO: DATA IS AVAILABLE THAT REPRESENTS YOUTH EXPERIENCES IN A PROGRAM OR SCHOOL DESIGNED FOR THEM. HOW DO WE GAIN INSIGHTS INTO THE DATA IN A WAY THAT INFORMS PLANNING FOR THE FUTURE?



This NAF Youth Engagement Recipe Card will help students or other young people review and collectively analyze data, make sense of it, and critically explore recommendations for improvement in two parts:

1. Sensemaking - [W3 Activity](#): What? So What? What Now?
2. Exploring Improvement - [Force Field Analysis](#)

Youth Engagement & Youth Voice is What it's All About!

Youth Participatory Action Research (YPAR) is a process whereby youth are positioned as experts and develop, with adult allies' support, learning experiences, and environments that better address their needs and priorities. Incorporating YPAR elements into youth engagement and improvement practices prove beneficial for future-ready skill development for students and for improved decision-making and participant experiences.

The driving principles are:



- o **Participation** - youth should be involved in program processes. They are not just passive participants completing a survey and should have opportunities to voice ideas and choices actively.



- o **Action-Orientation** - Youth are active in helping organizations learn about their programs. Action-oriented processes provide youth with experiences where they can apply various skills, from leadership, communication, collaboration, data analysis, and critical thinking.



- o **Shared Ownership** - PAR is driven by those with a stake in an issue. Youth have a stake in their college access and future readiness programs and should have decision-making or feel a sense of ownership in their programs.

And effective practices are:

- Implementing **mission-aligned practices** such as youth participating in, taking action on, and having a say in designing, planning, evaluating, and improving college access and readiness programs.
- Moving away from extractive practices - just surveying youth - to more **equitable strategies centered on youth voice and choice**, such as incorporating participatory and collaborative strategies in your program design and learning processes.

INSTRUCTIONS

The two-fold objective of this plan is to:

- Analyze and make sense of aggregated data or information collectively in Part I: [W3 Activity](#) - What? So What? What Now?
- Identify the goals or desired outcomes for the analyzed topic and explore the conditions and actions that will drive the school or program toward success or prevent success in Part II: [Force Field Analysis](#).



DIRECTIONS: PART I

Part I: Use the [W3 Experience Guide and Lesson](#) to plan and facilitate exploration of data with youth - guiding them through these reflection prompts:

What? What patterns or repeating ideas did you see in the data? What surprises you most about the data that was shared and why?

So What? What do these collective ideas mean for our program and participant experiences? Does something need to change? Is something new needed?

What Now? What changes, improvements, or recommendations would you offer based on what the data tells us and what it means for you and our program?

Be sure to capture the youth's ideas and suggestions for improvement to examine further in Part II.

MATERIALS:

Data Packets or shared presentation, large sheets of paper or craft paper or an interactive whiteboard/app; markers, *Post-Its* (optional), tape, scissors



TIME:

30 - 60 minutes



MODALITY:

In-person or virtual; large group or in small groups



RATING:



Easy to Moderate: multiple steps to implement; keeping on track and within time is critical; one must facilitate the exchange of ideas with youth without judgment; document feedback.

Notes: Here is the link to [2023 NAF Annual Student Survey](#) results. You may review data at the national level or by your academy or district. When reviewing survey data; choose one topic to review per cycle of this plan. You can use this plan with other data or other types of information. Consider: Academy Assessment (AA) results or success indicators; your program's recommendations for the new year; etc.). Be sure to secure and format the data/information in a way that is accessible to youth for review and discussion in Parts I and II.

ACTIVITY FOCUS

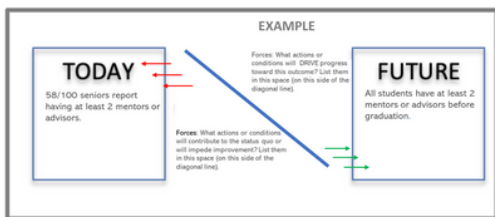


DIRECTIONS: PART II

- Secure the goals and/or improvements that students identified in Part I for the identified topic(s).
- Write a statement summarizing a desired goal or outcome (need) students identified for the topic being discussed.

Part II: Use the [Force Field Analysis Experience Guide & Lesson Guide](#) to facilitate the exploration of desired outcomes with youth. Implement the three activity components. See our example below.

- **TODAY** - In the space above the TODAY block, enter a summary statement of the current data related to this goal or outcome.
- **FUTURE** - In this space, identify future readiness needs, goals, or desired outcomes identified by youth and to be integrated into the program to improve their experiences.
- **Force Analyses** - What needs to be in place for the "Future" to happen? Put those actions/conditions on the right side of the diagonal line. What actions or conditions may impede progress or hold it back? List those items on the left side of the diagonal line. See the example below.



MATERIALS:

Large sheets of poster paper, markers, Post-It notes (optional), tape, scissors, or an interactive whiteboard



TIME:

50 - 60 minutes



MODALITY:

In-person, large group or several small groups; virtual facilitation is not advised.



RATING:



Easy to Moderate: Be mindful that there are multiple steps to implement; staying on track and within time is critical; and ensuring student feedback or voice is shared with decision-makers.

Notes: Engaging young people in the improvement of conditions that impact them is critical to their future-readiness and to the success of our schools and programs. Activities in this recipe help youth and adults build culture and skills for collaboration. Deeper engagement can occur when youth choose to take further action on some of the recommendations in cooperation with adult allies. To access more resources and learn about Youth Engagement and Voice, visit the [NAF Youth PAR Toolkit](#) or contact support@naf.org.