

LAUNCH AND GROUP WORK

TIME: Approximately 45 minutes, depending on the size of the group.

OBJECTIVES:

EVERYONE:

- gets familiar with the *RFP project* and links to learning.
- understands what it takes to be a good facilitator.
- clarifies the timeframe and deadlines.

MATERIALS: *Celebrate Success RFP Project Style Guide*, one for each or for sharing.

INTRODUCTION

5 MINUTES

The *Celebrate Success RFP Project* is designed to help young people use and develop a range of reading, writing, and math skills. In addition, project-based learning allows youth the opportunity to develop teamwork, collaboration, leadership, information gathering, and communication skills. To support the development of all these skills together, youth need to be as much in charge of the project as possible. Many students have not had much chance to work independently in this way, so staff should help facilitate students' group work.

Review the project concept and document

Key points

- The program will provide funding for an end-of-year Celebrate Success event.
- The amount of funding will be tied directly to the level of attendance in the program.
- Students will decide what counts as success, will calculate attendance, and will come up with a celebration idea.
- The group will write a proposal following rules and guidelines in the RFP document.
- The proposal will be submitted to Reviewers for approval.
- Funds will be given for students to carry out their event.
- This is a student-driven project.
- Links to Learning 10 minutes
- What kind of learning can come from participation in this project?
(Refer to Content in Action in the Leader's section.)



FACILITATION

10 MINUTES

What is the difference between facilitating a group and leading a group?

GROUP FACILITATION IS A SKILL.

The goal of facilitation is to help a group do its own (and best) thinking.

Facilitation is different than leading in that the facilitator does not give his/her own opinion and does not influence the outcome of the group. Good facilitators give up control of the group and allow the group to lead itself.

At the same time, good facilitators keep the discussion going, on track, respectful and inclusive of all group members.

CAN IT WORK?

Can staff serve more as facilitators of young people's group work than as directors or leaders?

"FACILITATING GROUP WORK"

10 MINUTES

In pairs, consider the questions:

1. How do you feel about working in a group? What makes you feel more like participating? What puts you off?
2. What helps students feel more like participating—or not?
3. What challenges do you see in young people working more independently?

STEPS TO LAUNCH

10 MINUTES

- Time frame: What time frame works for the program? The project requires 10 to 20 sessions to do well, with anywhere from 20 to 40 minutes per session, depending on the tasks and complexity.
- Set deadlines for each part.
- How will you introduce this to get the most enthusiasm and participation?
- How can you ensure 'buy-in' for ground rules? How can you involve students themselves in establishing the ground rules?

TAKE OFF!



FACILITATING GROUP WORK

In pairs, consider the questions:

1. How do you feel about working in a group? What makes you feel more like participating? What puts you off?
2. What helps students feel more like participating—or not?
3. What challenges do you see in young people working more independently?

