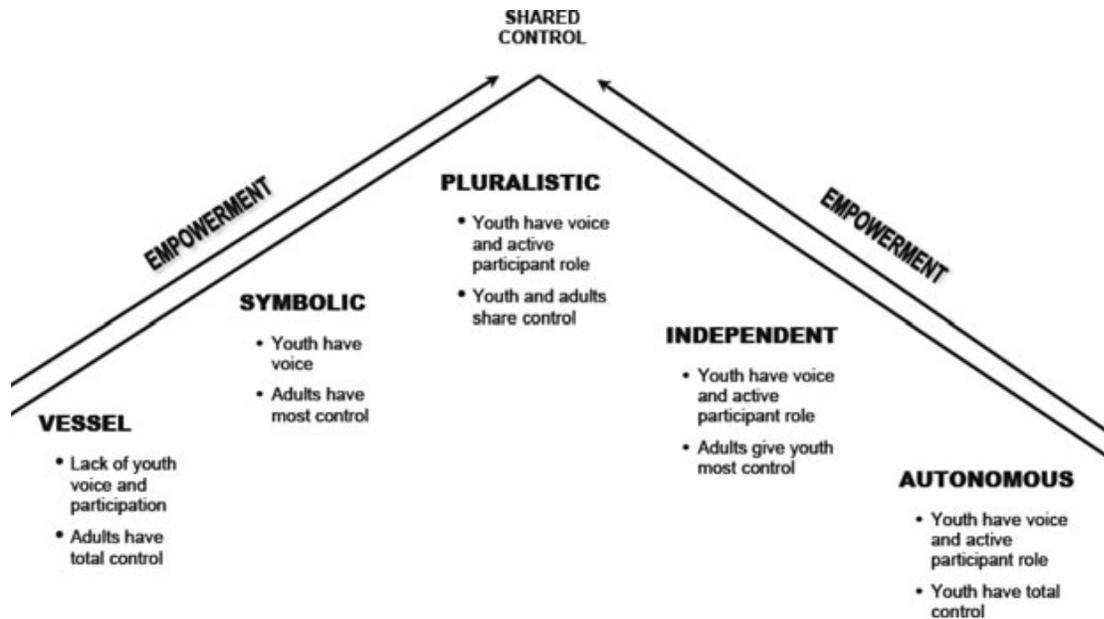


Building Youth-Adult Partnerships

“Involving youth and adults in responsible, challenging, and collective action that seeks to benefit the organization or larger community. Opportunity to engage in planning, decision-making, and action consistent with their interests and skills.”¹



Typology of Youth Participation & Empowerment (TYPE Pyramid) Wong, Zimmerman & Parker (2010)

Benefits of Youth-Adult Partnerships for:

Youth	Adults and Leaders	Organizations and Communities
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increased safety and belonging. • Increased efficacy and empowerment- confidence in ability to change environment. • More civic engagement and applying their own life to larger social, economic and political structures. • More connections to peers, community, leaders. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • More confidence to effectively share power and responsibility with youth. • Increased satisfaction in passing along experience to new generation. • Develop new respect for youth competence and expertise. • Become an advocate for Youth Participation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Institutionalized Expectations of Youth Participation. • Agendas Reflect Youth Voice. and priorities of young people. • More responsive public institutions.

¹ Zeldin S, Collura J. Being Y-AP Savvy: A Primer on Creating and Sustaining Youth Adult Partnerships. ACT for Youth Center of Excellence, June 2010.

When young people are engaged in educational change endeavors, youth become more motivated to engage in school. At the same time, schools become more motivated and better able to create more challenging and supportive environments for learning.²

Authentically engaging youth in health care delivery drives “youth friendly care”³ in the following ways:

- Appropriate communication (delivery, message, tone, interactions).
- Accessibility (times, locations).
- Age-appropriate environment (space, confidentiality).
- How involved youth are in care.

Best Practices for Building Youth Adult Partnerships⁴

- ✓ **Pay attention to logistics and group dynamics.**
- ✓ **Create ongoing opportunities for collective reflection.**
- ✓ **Affirmatively address issues of role and power.**

“Too often, adults with institutional power are able to consume the project, shut it down, or frame it as an adorable performance of “student voice.” The lesson is clear the Y-AP team first needs to identify who has institutional and other types of influential power in the larger organization, and then, get them on board with the project. Creating new project “champions” grants legitimacy to Y-AP and offers an institutional buffer when conflicts arise. Gaining this support often simply requires persistence. Having youth speak to “adults with power” early in the process helps the adults see that the research effort is one of serious purpose and method. Ongoing communication with the power brokers is an effective strategy for strengthening their commitment.” – Sheperd Zeldin

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2 Joselowsky, F. (2007). Youth engagement, high school reform and improved learning outcomes: Building systemic approaches to youth engagement. National Association of Secondary School Principals Bulletin, 91(3) 257-276.

3 Ambresin AE et al. Assessment of youth-friendly health care: A systematic review of indicators drawn from young people’s perspectives. Journal of Adolescent Health 52 (2013) 670e681

4 Zeldin S., Bestu L., Powers J. (2012). Youth-Adult Partnerships in Evaluation (Y-AP/E): A Resource Guide for Translating Research into Practice. Ithaca, NY: ACT for Youth Center of Excellence, Cornell University.