

UpLift Process

Making sense of evaluation and current state of your school

General Notes:

The following processes were designed by the Youth Engagement Coordinator in the South Shore in collaboration with school champions. These processes were designed with input from school champions and were, on many occasions, adjusted to meet the unique needs of a given group of students. We hope this document will be a helpful resource and offer ideas for engaging your students towards a school grant or project.

The process was designed for a group of grade 8 leadership students that wanted to go through a more involved process that would allow them to come up with an entirely youth-led, and youth-created project. This session is one part of a 5 session process. Many of the following activities could be adapted to be more suitable for younger students. This process is best for groups that have time and do not have a specific project they hope to implement.

All sessions are designed to be approximately 50- 60 minutes.

Important Questions to Ask Before Beginning:

We encourage you to make adaptations to fit the needs and strengths of your young people and your school community. The following questions can help guide your adaptations:

- How many students are you working with?
- How old are these students?
- How much time will you have with these students?
- Will your engagement be in-person or virtual?
- Does the group already have an idea for what project or what kind of project they would like to work on?

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Activity	Purpose	Taking Notes	Materials and Time
<p>Circle Check in with names, pronouns and question about topic</p>	<p>Hear everyone's voice and if possible, introduce topic for the day.</p>	<p>For today some good questions might be:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is something you really love about your school? • Where do you feel most challenged at school? • What you be most excited to tell a friend about your school? 	<p>Materials: None</p> <p>Time: 5-10 mins</p>
<p>Revisit vision, plan for today, introduce importance of evaluation</p>	<p>Revisit vision, go over important notes from ethos tool and sets intentions for today.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind students of the vision • If we are trying to create a project that benefits our whole school community we have to ask the right question and get information that informs what we do. • Revisit some key points and takeaways from last session. • Introduce idea of scope- we cannot solve all of the problems in our school with one project, so as a group we have to create some scope for our ideating/brainstorming. 	<p>Materials: Plan for the day, Vision</p> <p>Time: 5-10mins</p>
<p>Small group discussion</p>	<p>Dig deeper into the school themes of well-being.</p>	<p>Introduction</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Introduce and explain the themes that well-being projects could fall under- based on other school well-being surveys I used social emotional well-being, healthy eating, physical activity, outdoor spaces. • Have a conversation about these themes, what each theme means, how they overlap and relate, and if there are other themes we would want to consider. <p>Small group discussion:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide into smaller groups so that each can discuss one theme. 	<p>Materials: Poster Paper, Makers</p> <p>Templates for note taking or poster with prompting questions posted at front of room</p> <p>Time: 10-15mins</p>

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure you have enough groups that all themes are discussed. i.e., If you have 4 themes, divide into 4 groups and assign each one theme. <p>Note: If you have a smaller group you have to do this in several rounds to ensure each theme is discussed.</p> <p>In the group answer the following questions as they relate to the topic:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is your school doing really well? • What could be improved? • How do other students/staff, parents see this theme at your school? • Any additional observations? • What could we change? • Any surprises? <p>Note: it can be useful to provide each group a template with these questions so they can take notes as they discuss. Otherwise, it is helpful to ensure these questions are posted somewhere where all groups can see and refer to them in their conversations.</p> <p>Share back: Present what each group discussed to larger group.</p>	
<p>Group debrief</p>	<p>Make sense of what we have learned together.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Beyond the survey what were your other observations? • Do these themes relate? • In addition to social emotional well-being, healthy eating, physical activity, outdoor spaces- Are there any other themes or things you noticed? • How does what we discussed relate to our vision? 	<p>Materials: Poster paper or Whiteboard to take notes</p> <p>Time: 5-10mins</p>
<p>Selecting a theme to do a project on</p>	<p>To create scope for our project. Before deciding on a project it is important to create some scope.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • We cannot do everything, so what kind of challenge or issue in our school, do we want to tackle with our project? 	<p>Materials: Poster with themes written down with grids around them, Blue and red stickers</p>

	<p>Many projects will affect several or all of the themes, but it is overwhelming to ideate/brainstorm project ideas when the scope is too large.</p>	<p>Dotmocracy:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Present each option- social emotional well-being, healthy eating, physical activity, outdoor spaces. • Each student gets 3 blue stickers and 3 red stickers. • Each will place 2 blue stickers on the theme that excites them most and 1 blue sticker on the theme that is the second most exciting to them. • Each will place 2 red stickers on the theme that they think would be most impactful to their school community and 1 red sticker on the theme that is the second most impactful. • The theme with the most stickers on it will be the main subject that you will ideate on. <p>Note: Can do multiple themes, merge themes, or make a theme more specific if a tie.</p>	<p>Time: 5-10 mins</p>
<p>Define the problem</p>	<p>Dig deeper into the theme you have chosen.</p>	<p>In new groups name 5:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reason this theme is important to students. • Barriers to solving the problem. • Impacts you want to have in the scope of this theme. <p>If you have time, have each group present- or save this for next session.</p>	<p>Materials: Poster paper and markers</p> <p>Time: 10-15mins</p>
<p>Check out</p>	<p>Say goodbyes, and hear everyone's voice once more.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One word to describe how you felt about today. • Something you are excited for this week • For more ideas: visit:https://toolbox.hyperisland.com/check-in-questions 	<p>Time: 5-10 mins</p>