

UpLift Process

Ideation and Brainstorming

General Notes:

The following processes were designed by the Youth Engagement Coordinator (YEC) 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?

Ideation and Brainstorming

Activity	Purpose	Taking Notes	Materials and Time
Circle Check In with names, pronouns and question about topic	Hear everyone's voice and if possible introduce topic for the day	For today some good questions might be: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What is problem you wish you can solve in the school? • What is something another school has or is doing that you think would be really cool to have at our school? • If you could change one thing about school, what would you change? 	Materials: None Time: 5-10mins
Revisit vision, plan for today, introduce idea of scoping	Revisits vision and scope	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Remind students of the vision and scope • Revisit some key points and take-aways from last session • Introduce ideation/brainstorming – the goal of today is to come up with as many ideas for projects as possible. We will focus on our projects within our defined scope, but are open to all ideas 	Materials: Plan for the day Time: 5-10mins
Go over the problem	Dig deeper into chosen theme	Discuss: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The importance of this theme to students, staff, and community • The barriers of making change within this theme • The type of impact you would like to have 	Materials: Time: 5-10mins
Introduce Ideation/ Brainstorming	Create shared expectations for this process. Introduce guiding question for ideation	Rules of Ideation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • All ideas are good ideas (no no's) • Wild ideas are welcome- think big- it doesn't have to be possible • "Yes, and"- We build on the ideas of others and we are not judging other ideas • Quantity over quality • Move around- We are talking about physical activity- our brains are better at tasks like ideating/brainstorming when we are moving around so do whatever you need to be comfortable and coming up with ideas 	Materials: Sticky notes, paper, poster paper, markers, timer, Rules for Ideation poster, whiteboard/wall Time: 15-25mins total (10mins to ideate and 10-15mins to share ideas)

		<p>Guiding Question</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Use the theme to create “How can we...” questions <p>Ex. How can we increase physical activity in our school? How can we improve learning in our outdoor spaces? How can we make healthy food more accessible to students and staff? How can we foster more meaningful relationships between staff and students?</p>	
Assess with Criteria	Use agreed upon criteria to reduce number of ideas	<p>This process is not yet about whether we like ideas, but more about whether they are possible</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Have a conversation about what things might make a project impossible to do • Some criteria you might use <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ◦ Price ◦ Safety ◦ COVID safe ◦ Allowed at school ◦ Benefits more than one student ◦ Is good for students • Go through list of ideas, assess by criteria and eliminate ones that don't work <p>Note: It is important here to let the students do this. Make sure you are telling them they can't do something, instead pose questions and allow them to make those decisions. I got a lot of ideas for candy shops and gun ranges and they were always very quick to recognize that they would not be allowed</p>	<p>Materials: whiteboard or postern paper</p> <p>Time: 10-15mins</p>
Favourite ideas	Reduce number of project ideas	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Get students into pairs or groups of three • Have each group decide on 2 or 3 of the projects that they are most excited about • Goal is to reduce number of ideas being considered to about 9-12 	<p>Materials:</p> <p>Time: 5mins</p>
Check out	Say Goodbyes, and hear everyone's voice once more	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • One word to describe how felt about today • Something you are excited for this week • For more ideas visit: https://toolbox.hyperisland.com/check-in-questions 	<p>Time: 5-10mins</p>