Do’s and Don’ts of Youth Engagement

Youth engagement is something we are all attempting to embed into our work at some level. However, it’s important to have some open and honest conversations before embarking in this kind of work. Sometimes it may not be the right time, right people, right organization or right fit for youth. Consider the following voices of youth.

DO:
Communicate what you expect…and the rules too
Understand that I don’t have your experience
Let me make mistakes
Be a good role model
Anything to get to know me better
Show that you heard my idea
Ask us to do hard things
Get rid of hierarchy
Get to action fast
Have fun

DON’T:
Book meetings during school time
Say you’re going to do something, and then don’t
Use language that I can’t understand
Judge me
Make decisions for me
Be negative
Pretend to trust me
Try to be cool – be yourself!