

# Engaging Authentic Youth Voice for Prevention

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# About us and MOASH!



michigan organization on  
adolescent sexual health

# Agenda

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- Do's and Don'ts for authentic youth engagement
- Mental Health, Substance Abuse, & Intersectionality
- Group Discussion

# Do's and Don'ts for authentic youth engagement

# Youth perspective

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## Do

Compensate youth for time and energy

Have organized goals and expectations

Use interactive methods of engagement

Create an environment that encourages growth

Allow youth choice in topic or discussion

Respect their voice

Acknowledge intersectionality

# Youth perspective

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## Don't

- Use shaming or condescending language
- Be disorganized and give confusing instruction
- Talk at them, or talk more than you listen
- Invalidate their experiences

# Facilitator Perspective

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## Do

Know difference between engagement & “buy-in”

Recognize young people as experts

Encourage institutions you work with to include youth voice

Recognize that adultism is a form of oppression

Welcome correction

Model accountability

Expect changes

Be mindful of communication

Shut up, and listen

Use pronouns

Educate yourself

# Facilitator Perspective

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## Don't

Allow your ego to lead

Invest in the adult tendency to be the authority

Simplify or make assumptions about their experiences - respect they are WHOLE humans

Be a “gatekeeper”

Stay bound to traditions that are not effective - welcome generational innovation

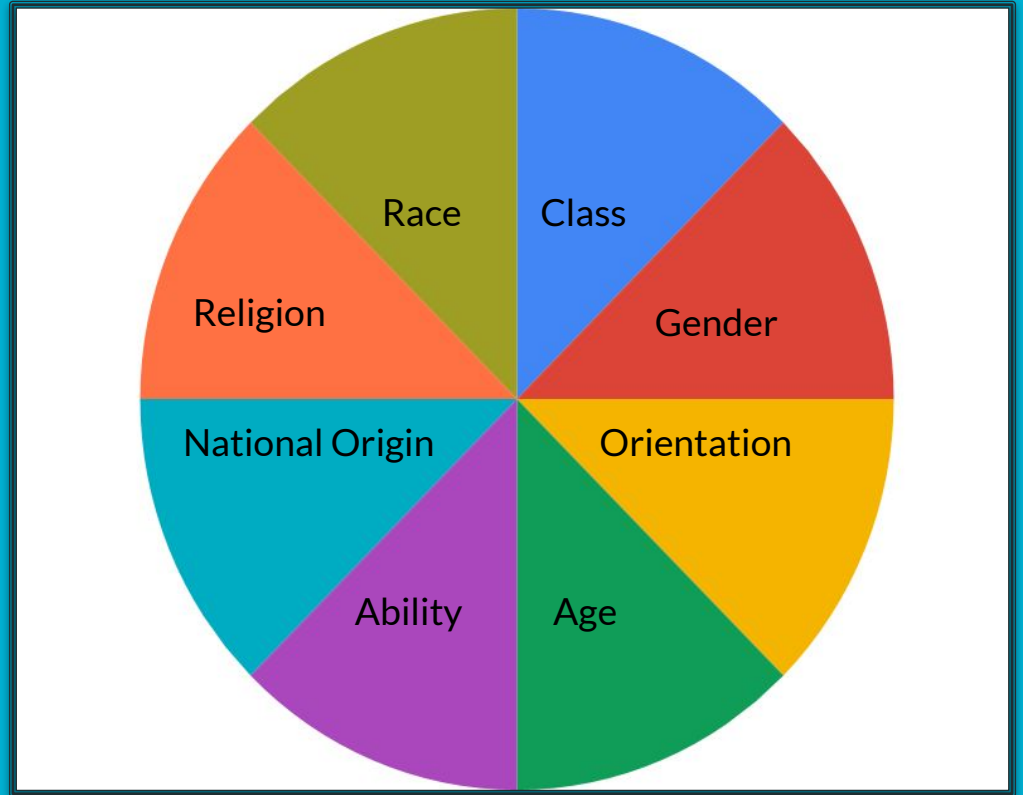


# Mental Health, Substance Abuse, & Intersectionality

# Intersectionality

“The complex and cumulative way that effects of different forms of discrimination (such as racism, sexism, and classism) combine, overlap and, yes, intersect - especially in the experiences of marginalized people or groups.”

Legal scholar Dr. Kimberle' Crenshaw coined the term in 1989 based on the 1976 *DeGraffenried v. General Motors* case.



# Youth Perspective

# Small group discussion

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1. What are some things you want to change about your practice after hearing the do's and don'ts?
2. What do you feel like you're well with youth engagement? How can you continue to improve in that area?
3. How will you be mindful of intersectionality and different identities with your prevention work?

**Group Discussion!**

# Thank you!

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