



Categories	Description
1. Decoration	Adults use youth to promote or support a cause without informing youth. Youth are not involved in design or decisions.
2. Tokenism	Symbolic representation by few youth. Youth don't have meaningful input, and they may be asked to speak for the group(s) adults feel they represent.
3. Assigned and Informed	Youth do not initiate, but understand and have some sense of ownership.
4. Consulted and Informed	Processes and programs are designed and run by adults who consult with youth. Youth make recommendations that are considered by adults.
5. Adult Initiated, Shared Decisions with Youth	Programs or processes where adults provide guidance for youth, and youth have some meaningful input in decision making.
6. Youth and Adult Initiated and Directed	Partnership is achieved between youth and adults. Youth and adults have equal chances in utilizing skills, participating in decision making, engaging in mutual learning, and independently carrying out tasks to reach common goals.
7. Youth Initiated, Shared Decisions with Adults	Youth primarily develop the ideas and make decisions while adults typically provide assistance when needed.
8. Youth Initiated and Directed	Includes programs or activities led exclusively by youth, with little to no adult involvement.

*Adapted from "Hart's Ladder" from "Youth Participation in Community Planning" & University of Kentucky – College of Agriculture "Youth-Adult Partnerships: Are You There Yet?"