

Staff Debate Questions

Debate Question One

Some young people come from well-resourced communities, while other young people come from communities that are struggling with issues of violence, internalized oppression, and educational inequity. We believe that regardless of the youth's background or community, all youth programs need to be highly structured, with planned curriculum that holds youth to high expectations and teaches the skills and behaviors that will make them productive. In other words, we believe that although the programs and content may differ, programs in low-income communities should have the same quality and feel as programs in middle-class and wealthy communities.

Debate Question Two

After school programs provide a lot of flexibility that allows adults to interact with youth on their own level. Youth development theory says that the presence of a strong adult role model is the number-one indicator that a young person will grow into a healthy adult. We believe that youth workers should NOT be encouraged to embrace youth culture and dress and act like youth in order for youth to feel connected to them.