

Adultism Scenarios

Scenario 1

Two young people are planning to do a presentation about a recently completed community service project at the agency's annual meeting. The day before the event the adult program leader sees that the young people are not that well prepared and decides to take over as the lead presenter.

How would the young people respond to this?

What are the long-term effects for young people if they have many similar experiences?

What would alternative adult behavior look like?

Scenario 2

In a work readiness program a young person is repeatedly missing sessions and appointments (he relies on his parents for transportation). The program coordinator sees the young person as irresponsible and unreliable and decides to drop him from the program.

How would the youth respond to this?

What are the long-term effects for young people if they have many similar experiences?

What would alternative adult behavior look like?

Scenario 3

An agency administrator uses new funding to start up an afterschool program for teenagers. He develops the program to best fit the structure of programming in his agency. Trying to maximize space utilization, he puts the new program into a room originally designed for a nursery school.

How would the youth respond to this?

What are the long-term effects for young people if they have many similar experiences?

What would alternative adult behavior look like?

Scenario 4

An agency decides to have young people on their board of directors. One young person is selected and asked to be on the board. The youth is expected to attend every board meeting. The board meets once a month from 7-9PM in the agency's main office downtown.

How would the youth respond to this?

What are the long-term effects for young people if they have many similar experiences?

What would alternative adult behavior look like?

Scenario 5

A group of young people is planning a teen center. Two group members are charged with investigating zoning regulations and related city policies. They decide to go directly to city hall to do the research. The receptionist initially ignores them; finally she asks what they are doing there. Asking to meet with a staff person at the planning department, they are told that staff does not have time to meet with them.

How would the youth respond to this?

What are the long-term effects for young people if they have many similar experiences?

What would alternative adult behavior look like?