



Ten Tips for Working with Youth in Filmmaking

Learn from them.

Remember that many youth have grown up with technology. Allow them to teach you. Be willing to learn from their knowledge and encourage their creativity in new filmmaking techniques.

Accommodate different levels of knowledge.

Although many youth have grown up with technology, do not assume that they know how to work a camera or develop a film just because they are youth. Allow them an opportunity to say that they don't understand.

Listen with respect.

Do more than listen. Listen to their ideas and respect their opinions. Be honest with your opinions, it's OK to disagree.

Develop youth as leaders.

Provide roles for youth in developing and presenting information to others. Allow them to take the lead in presenting their films; be there to support, encourage, and guide.

Encourage self expression.

Youth often approach issues from different perspectives than their adult partners. Allow youth to develop the topics for their filmmaking project; help them to express their passions and opinions through their films.

Facilitate learning.

Filmmaking requires research, writing, and application. Help youth to develop good research skills and apply what they have learned to a storyboard for an engaging film.

Encourage diversity.

Use filmmaking as an opportunity to understand and promote diversity. Visuals should reflect diversity of dress, age, gender, sexual orientation and ethnic background.

Recognize accomplishments.

Acknowledge youth personally and publicly. Assist youth in finding audiences and venues for their films. They deserve recognition for their work and for having chosen your project over many other activities competing for their time.

Share the learning process.

Act as a co-learner; take advantage of opportunities to experience the learning process together. Reinforce to youth that learning includes accepting mistakes and learning from them; both your mistakes and theirs.

Have fun.

Be energetic and excited about their projects. Youth can bring amazing energy to projects and will feel more welcome when they know that their enthusiasm is shared.

Visit the 4-H Filmmaking Studio & Workshop at: www.4-H.org/curriculum/filmmaking

