



February '08

Connections

What's New from the
Region One GEAR UP
Youth Advisory Committee

At-a-Glance

■ SAVE THE DATE!

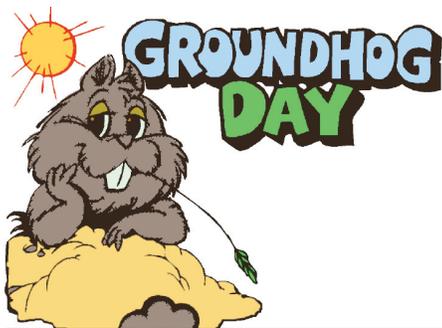
Our third Youth Advisory Committee Conference will take place May 15–17.

■ SORRY FOR THE DELAY

Sorry for getting this issue of YAC Connections to you a little late. We were attending a GEAR UP conference in Las Vegas!

■ VOCABULARY WORDS

Keep an eye out for this month's vocabulary words. They are italicized throughout the newsletter.



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Letter from NCCEP/Region One

This issue of YAC Connections is a step up from our previous issues. You will find articles that build upon concepts and ideas that we have talked about in the YAC over the past few months as well as at our conference in December.

First, we have the last part of our Research Guide, which introduces the *quantitative research* method. In *conjunction* with the *qualitative research* method that was covered in January's YAC, you will be able to start doing research on your campus to find how your Youth Advisory Team (YAT) can best serve your fellow students. This issue also includes an article on giving presentations, a skill which will be useful at the events you are now able to plan thanks to the tips you learned in the January videoconference. Check page 3 for words of wisdom from Justin Boudreau with the GEAR UP for Excellence team. Justin has been a facilitator at both our conferences and will join us again in May.

Since we will not be meeting again for another few months, we want to hear from you on how this newsletter can help you prepare for our May event. If you have ideas for articles or just want to let us know what you are thinking, drop us a line at youthservices@edpartnerships.org or talk to your GEAR UP facilitator. ●

January Videoconference Recap

The January videoconference was held on Tuesday, January 15. Fifteen campuses had the opportunity to share what they've accomplished since our last videoconference session in November. **The January videoconference focused on event planning.** We reviewed the five basic questions identified in the January YAC Connections Newsletter — Why, Who, When, Where, What — and talked about how the answers could impact your event. Marie also shared some tips for giving a good presentation, and ways to make presentations more exciting. Then it was time to work.

Each Youth Advisory Team worked to plan the details of an imaginary event for 8th grade students at their old middle school, answering the five basic questions as well as thinking about other important details, like what information they needed from the middle school principal and how they would promote the event. Groups came up with a variety of goals for their presentations, including informing the middle school students of what high school will be like, sharing opportunities that are available in high school that were not available in middle school, holding a career fair, and talking about the importance of college. There were also many creative ways of presenting the information, including video tours of the high school, puppet shows, skits, role playing, and speaker booths. Everyone did a terrific job thinking through the event planning process. The steps learned will help every team create great events in the future! ●

RESEARCH GUIDE PART 3

Quantitative Research and Tools

In the January edition of YAC Connections we talked about conducting an interview as a form of *qualitative research*. This article will focus on another type of research, *quantitative*. But first, here is a quick recap about the differences between the two:

Quantitative Research vs. Qualitative Research

Quantitative Research

Has to do with numbers and measurements

Example: Menu

- 16 items
- 4 appetizers, 7 entrees, and 5 desserts
- 5 dishes with beef

Qualitative Research

Observations and descriptions

Example: Menu

- Older menu, has some food stains on it
- Black ink on light blue paper
- Laminated

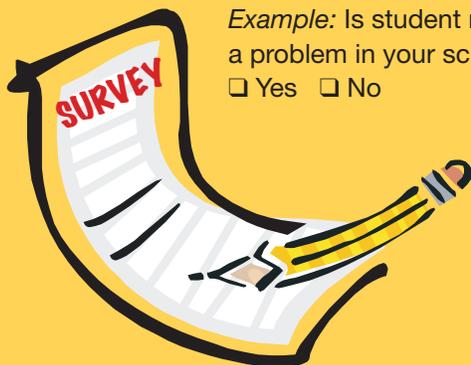
Quantitative Research: The Survey

A survey is a quantitative research method, which means that it deals with numbers. Surveys are good for answering questions that want to answer “how many” or “how much”. Survey questions can take on many different formats. The most commonly used ones are:

- **Yes/No.** A Yes/No survey question can only be answered two ways, either yes or no.

Example: Is student motivation a problem in your school?

- Yes No



- **Scale.** Scale questions ask participants to rank a question on a scale size of your choice, the most common being 1–5.

Example: On a scale of 1–5, with 1 being “not at all” and 5 being “very,” how motivated are the students in your school? 1 2 3 4 5

- **Multiple Choice.** These questions ask participants to choose the answer from a list. Oftentimes, an option of “none of the above” is given for participants whose answer is not listed among the choices. Sometimes, participants can choose more than one answer (Example: choose up to 3 of the following), or can write in their own answer (Example: other _____).

Example: In your opinion, what is the single most common reason for lack of student motivation in your school? Choose one:

- poor grades
- lack of support from parents
- lack of support from teachers
- peer influence
- other _____

- **Open Ended.** Open ended questions allow the participant to write in their own answer to your question. Sometimes they have follow-up questions that probe deeper into the subject matter. Keep in mind that while open ended questions can be used in a survey, they are most useful in interviews and qualitative research. Understanding your survey results can be hard if you use too many open ended questions, so we encourage you to use the other types of survey questions as much as possible.

Example: What do you think is the cause of poor student motivation in your school? What are some solutions?

Carefully wording your questions and choosing an appropriate combination of the question types illustrated above will result in a great survey that can give you lots of information. If your YAT decides to use a survey, make sure to work on its creation with your GEAR UP facilitator. ●

Tips On Giving a Great Presentation

If you haven't already, there will be a time when you will have to do a presentation on what your Youth Advisory Team is doing in your school. Whether this presentation is for students, parents, or administrators, these tips will help you get your message across clearly and professionally.



■ Know Your Audience.

How you present your information will depend on what type of audience you are presenting to. Your language and activities that you have planned should reflect the abilities and personality of your audience.

■ Be Clear and Concise.

Plan what you are going to talk about. Use language that will be easy to understand and explain any *acronyms* you use. For example, explain that the YAT is the Youth Advisory Team, which is a part of the YAC, the Youth Advisory Committee. Be prepared to give your presentation without reading it word for word; have organized note cards to remind you of what you are talking about.

■ Practice.

While your first presentation may not be perfect, the more you do it the easier it will be. To prepare for that first presentation, practice a few times in front of a mirror or friends or family.

■ Bring your presentation to life.

Keep your audience *captivated* with real life stories, *compelling* statistics, and activities. Activities can range from a worksheet, a game, a group discussion, a skit, or any other creative ideas you have to get the audience involved! ●

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Ten by Choice from Justin Boudreau



Excerpt from the book *Gearing Up: Inside & Out to a Great Life* — Authored by Patrick Combs with Justin Boudreau

The day we start believing we are as good as our grades, rank or rating is the day we forget what we originally knew: perfection isn't assigned. It's a personal choice about how we judge ourselves. Other people's opinion of you does not make a difference. The only opinion that makes any difference is your own

opinion of yourself. Nobody can make you a loser. Winners keep a self-image of themselves as a winner, no matter what.

Think yourself a 10. You may not attain a perfect score in all aspects of life, but you are still perfect.

Be **TENacious**. I can't wait to see what you have accomplished within your school in May.

Peace,
Justin

Call for Entries!

Is your YAC team doing some thing really cool in your school? Do you have a great idea and want to share it? Now is your chance!

Write a 200–300 word article on something exciting related to YAC or GEAR UP and it could be featured in an upcoming issue of the YAC.

For questions and submissions talk to your GEAR UP facilitator or e-mail us at youthservices@edpartnerships.org. ●

VOCABULARY!

Acronym: A word formed from the beginning letter or letters of each or most parts of a term

Captivate: To capture or attract attention

Compel: To cause to do something by a strong force

Concise: Being brief and to the point

Conjunction: Joining together

Excerpt: To select for quoting

Quantitative Research: Finding out about a topic in terms of numbers and measurements.

Qualitative Research: Finding out about a topic in terms of description and quality.

Tenacious: Not easily pulled apart

■ Rio Grande City High School

Communication Captains: Ashlee Flores, Maximiliano Magallanes

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The Rattler Youth Advisory Team’s goal is GEAR UP’s goal: early readiness for college. We feel this is the key to success now and in the future. Through the use of hallway bulletins we are posting any and all GEAR UP information, opportunities, and upcoming events so that everyone knows the presence of GEAR UP.

We feel that the more our classmates know about preparing for college, the better they’ll be in college. For this reason, one of our first projects of the new year is to spread the college word around campus through the use of “college walls.” The more we see it, the more we



believe it. Our goal is to place college walls in as many hallways and classrooms as possible.

The most exciting part of moving up to the high school has been meeting new

people, making new friends, and having so many new opportunities available to us.

Rio Grande City High School, home of the MIGHTY Rattlers, is a large school with over 2,600 students enrolled. Our campus offers over 30 different sports and student organizations.

Through new technology and equipment, GEAR UP has helped to promote and increase student success at Rio Grande City High School.

Our message is simple – GEAR UP to Rise Up!

“The future belongs to those who believe in the beauty of their dreams.”

— Eleanor Roosevelt, 34th First Lady of the United States

Eleanor Roosevelt was a social and political leader who was dedicated to improving the status of women in the workplace and passing civil rights. After her time as first lady, she supported the formation of the United Nations (UN) and later became the President and Chair of the United Nations Commission on Human Rights, where she led the effort to approve the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.

Each month we will profile a few of the Youth Advisory Teams in the Region One area. Talk to your facilitator about how you can get your school profile in the next newsletter!

COMING SOON:

Increasing Event Attendance • GEAR UP Basics • What is a Leader?



For additional information about YAC Connections, please contact:
National Council for Community and Education Partnerships • tel: 202-530-1135 • www.edpartnerships.org