

NOISE Evaluation – Youth Focus Group Guide

WELCOME -----

Ask people to help themselves to pizza/snacks

Pass the sign in sheet

While they eat, ask them to introduce themselves (probes – ask them to say a bit about how long they have been in NOISE and what pod they are in)

Preamble ----

- Thank them for coming out
- Discuss purpose of evaluation
- Review informed consent
- Distribute informed consent, receipt and honorarium
- Discuss informed consent (confidentiality)
- Collect Signed Consent form and receipt for honorarium
- Discuss structure of focus group – icebreakers, changes from NOISE experience, wrapping up
- Ask if they have any questions?
- Permission to begin recording

Facilitator Introductions

- Role of facilitators – explain why we wanted facilitators from outside NOISE project team
- Discuss a few ground rules – we will take turns to speak, we will maintain confidentiality, ???
- Introduce selves to group

WARMING-UP-----

1. How did you find out about NOISE?

- How did you first hear about NOISE?
- How did you get involved?

2. What made you apply to NOISE?

- What did you expect of NOISE before signing up?
- In the end, what was the biggest factor that made you join?
- Tell me more about that..

3. Can you tell us about the first time you attended a NOISE event or meeting?

- What sticks out the most for you about that memory?
- Why does this stand out?

4. What are the things that have you kept coming back to NOISE?

- What made you feel comfortable here?
- What made you feel uncomfortable here?
- If you ever thought about not coming back, why did you feel this way?

5. Some youth have left NOISE. What do you think some of their reasons for leaving were?

- What are some things that NOISE can do to encourage people to stay?

OVERALL EXPERIENCE-----

6. Different people joined NOISE for different reasons and they have stayed because of different things they feel they learn or gain from NOISE. If you were to choose what stands out as being the most important thing you have gained/learned from NOISE, what would this be for you?

- Probe for concrete examples:
 - When (Orientation, Summer Learning Retreat, Fall pod meetings, Winter pod meetings, full-day retreat, dialogue session, etc.)
 - Where (YorkU, School of Social Work, Emery, community, etc)
 - Why (pod work, social action project, stipends, etc.)
 - Who (pod, specific people, etc.)

7. How would you describe your experience of working with the university students in your pod?

- What is good about this?
- What is difficult about this?
- How has it changed the way you understand university education?

8. Since you joined NOISE, has anything changed about you?

- If yes, what is this change?
- If more than one change, what is the most important change?

9. Before you became involved in NOISE, was there anything different about how you approached school?

- Since NOISE, any changes with your school work, social life at school, relationships with teachers
- Probe for concrete examples.
- Has your level of participation in class changed? (do you put up your hand to ask more questions, etc)
- Are you more involved in school? How?

10. Before you became involved in NOISE, was there anything different about how you feel about yourself?

- Probe for concrete examples
- Since NOISE, do you feel better, worse or the same about yourself? How?

11. Before you became involved in NOISE, was there anything different about how you felt about your ability to contribute to changing things in your community?

- Probe for concrete examples
- How is this different or the same?
- Has your understanding of the community changed? How?

12. What has been the best part about participating in NOISE for you?

- Tell us more about why this is the best part?

13. What has been the worst part/most difficult part about participating in NOISE for you?

- Tell us more about why this is the worst/most difficult part?

14. If you were asked to write a story about your NOISE experience, what would be the title of that story?

- Is there anything about your NOISE story that you will want people to know about?

WRAPPING UP-----

15. If you could make NOISE better, what would you do?

16. If there was one thing that you could keep the same about NOISE what would it be?

17. Let's take a vote: Should we do NOISE again next year?

Grade 12 – Do you guys think another cohort of grade 12 youth will benefit from participating in NOISE next year?

- What would you wish to be different for them?
- What should keep the same?

Grade 9 youth – would you sign up for NOISE again next year?

- What would you wish to be different when you come back?
- What should stay the same?

18. We're going to begin wrapping up now, is there anything else you would like to share? Are there any questions we forgot to ask?

CLOSING -----

Thank them for participating and let them know that the information from all the focus groups will be used to improve NOISE 2.0