

# Engaging Young People in a Virtual Setting

*Monica Marie Jones*

*Trevor Davies*

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# About the Forum



Planning and Partnering  
for Impact



Strengthening Practices  
and Programs

The Forum is committed to changing the odds that all children and youth are ready for college, work and life.

We connect leaders to ideas, services and networks that can help them make more intentional decisions that are good for young people, even in the face of limited resources.

We help leaders who are trying to improve & align policies, plan & partner for impact, and/or strengthen programs & adult practice.



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is the proud home of...



Helps leadership groups build broader partnerships, set bigger goals, use data better and implement bolder strategies.



Builds quality improvement systems to strengthen practices and programs serving young people



Supports state and local policy leaders.



Mobilizes action by and for young people.



Works to expand economic mobility and close the opportunity gap in America.



Seeks to change the odds for youth through a commitment to upend inequities, embrace science informed strategies, and accelerate progress.



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# Landing Activity

THE INCREASED USE  
OF TECHNOLOGY  
DOES NOT MAKE YOU  
A ROBOT. CONNECT  
WITH YOURSELF AND  
OTHERS ON A HUMAN  
LEVEL FIRST.

@MONICAMARIEJONES  
WWW.MONICAMARIEJONES.COM

As a human I need...

Socially?

Emotionally?

Physically?



# Group Agreements and Online Safety

- **Mute**
- **Screen Sharing (tabs)**
- **Chat box privacy**
- **Video (Boundaries, Breaks and Bathrooms)**
- **Participant window features (hand raise, away, coffee, break, pacing, etc.)**
- **What else do you need to learn, be engaged and feel emotionally, psychologically and virtually safe?**



# Objectives

- **Build community with other Youth Development Professionals**
- **Experience high-quality online engagement**
- **Explore tools and strategies for virtual engagement**
- **Share resources and ideas with your peers**
- **Plan for how you will engage your youth virtually**



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# Agenda

- **Welcome – Building Community Virtually**
- **Opening Activity – Learning Styles**
- **Central Ideas – Best Practices for Virtual Engagement**
- **Application – Equity and Access**
- **Implementation – Taking it Back**
- **Closing - Reflection**



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# Nonverbal Networking





# Landing Activity

**Discussion Question:** What have been some challenges you've faced as you've tried to engage your young people virtually in a high-quality way?

**Shared Goal:** Find a challenge that the group has in common.

## Interdependent Roles:

- Note Taker (Whiteboard/Chat Box)
- Speaker
- Time Keeper



# Landing Activity

**What are some solutions to the challenges you've faced as you've tried to engage your young people virtually in a high-quality way?**



# Opening Activity

## Learning Styles

### VERBAL

Words are your strongpoint!  
You prefer to use words both  
in speech and in writing!

### VISUAL

You prefer to use pictures,  
diagrams, images and spatial  
understanding to help you  
learn

### MUSICAL / AUDITORY

You prefer using sounds or  
music or even rhythms to  
help you learn.

### PHYSICAL / KINAESTHETIC

You use your hands, body  
and sense of touch to help  
you learn. You might 'act  
things out'.

## WHAT'S YOUR LEARNING STYLE?

### LOGICAL / MATHEMATICAL

Learning is easier for you if  
you use logic, reasoning,  
systems and sequences.

### SOCIAL

You like to learn new things  
as a part of a group.  
Explaining your  
understanding to a group  
helps you to learn.

### SOLITARY

You like to work alone. You  
use self-study and prefer your  
own company when  
learning.

### COMBINATION

Your learning style is a  
combination of two or more  
of these styles.



# Defining Quality

Beyond just access...

Quality is about creating the conditions where young people feel safe and supported to learn and to lead.

This requires building the **safe**, **supportive**, **interactive**, and **engaging** environments that are foundational to youth development.

<https://forumfyi.org/weikartcenter/>

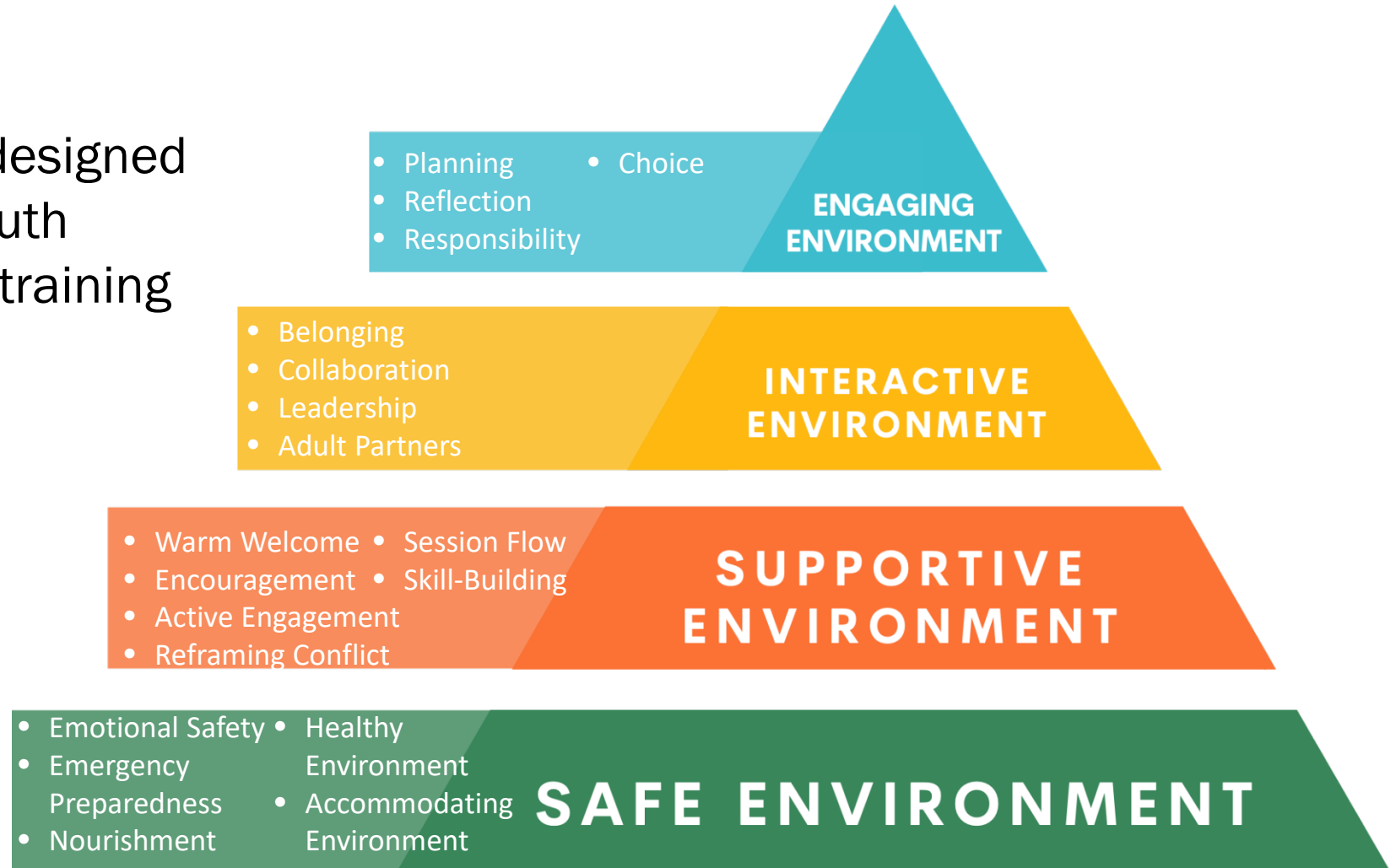


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# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

Observable staff practices designed to evaluate the quality of youth programs and identify staff training needs.



# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)



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# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)



**Boundaries, Security  
and Emotional Safety**



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# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)



**Staff Roles and Responsibilities**



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# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

Breakout Rooms  
and Belonging



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# Program Quality Assessment (PQA)

Planning, Choice,  
and Reflection



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# Defining Equity

**Equity as a DESTINATION:**  
a state where outcomes cannot be predicted based on race, class, or other social identities.

**Equity as a JOURNEY:**  
ongoing process of intentional action to change the power relationships built into the organizations, institutions, and communities.

**Equity is achieved when all young people have a shot at getting the essentials they need to succeed because:**

- 1. the differences in their starting points have been taken into account, and**
- 2. the systemic or institutional barriers to their success have been addressed.**

<https://forumfyi.org/changing-the-odds/>



# Application: Equity & Access

- **Discussion Question: How will you ensure that all youth and staff have equitable access to high-quality virtual engagement and communication?**



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# Implementation: Taking it Back

I will \_\_\_\_\_ so that young people \_\_\_\_\_.



# Reflection: Feedback Poll

- **How were your needs met today?**

- **Safe Environment**
- **Supportive Environment**
- **Interaction**
- **Engagement**

- **Strongly Agree – Agree – Disagree – Strongly Disagree**



# Stay Connected

- Presentation materials will be posted online at <https://readyby21nm.vfairs.com/>
- Tweet about your session! #rb21
- Find resources and tools on our website at [forumfyi.org](http://forumfyi.org)!
- Sign up for our newsletters to stay informed and connected: <https://forumfyi.org/about-us/newsletters/>.



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