

Youth Advocate Collective Interview

1. Introduction & Rationale

Engaging youth advocates through one-on-one interviews offers a high-impact way to strengthen relationships, surface unmet needs, and co-create strategies for collective action. Research on youth participation (Checkoway, 2011; UNICEF, 2018) shows that personalized outreach and meaningful involvement boost long-term engagement and leadership development.

Key Goals

1. **Understand Current Needs:** Identify each advocate's top challenges, interests, and barriers to deeper engagement.
 2. **Introduce FYP's Policy Branch Concept:** Gauge interest in contributing to emerging initiatives that influence policy and drive collective impact.
 3. **Deepen Connections:** Build trust, gather feedback, and provide a direct pathway to FYP's mailing list, Slack, and future collaborative opportunities.
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2. Interview Objectives

1. **Assess Engagement Barriers:** Why might advocates be less active now (time, resources, clarity on next steps)?
 2. **Uncover Areas for FYP Support:** Where can FYP help—whether through policy briefings, resource-sharing, or capacity-building?
 3. **Explore Policy Interests:** How can advocates collaborate on a youth-led policy campaigns?
 4. **Strengthen Advocacy Network:** Rekindle Slack activity, expand the mailing list, and identify future youth leaders in policy-oriented work.
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3. Methodology

1. **Participant Selection:**

- Start with a prioritized list of ~20 advocates who have shown interest or have unique expertise.
 - Gradually expand to all 70+ in the Slack community if capacity allows.
2. **Scheduling & Format:**
 - Conduct **30-45 minute virtual calls** (via Zoom or phone).
 - Associates will send personalized invitations via Slack DM or email.
 - Offer flexible time slots to accommodate diverse schedules.
 3. **Data Collection & Consistency:**
 - Use a **standardized interview guide** (see Section 5) to ensure comparable data.
 - Record key insights in a shared spreadsheet (or Airtable/Google Sheet) after each interview.
 - Track who consents to mailing list inclusion and policy/think-tank follow-up.
 4. **Ethical Considerations:**
 - Emphasize voluntary participation.
 - Ensure confidentiality of personal details; share only aggregated findings unless permission is given.
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4. Sample Interview Questions

Use open-ended questions, then tailor follow-ups based on each advocate's responses.

1. **Current Involvement & Interests**
 - "What youth advocacy work are you currently focused on or passionate about?"
 - "Have you been active in FYP events/Slack recently? If not, what's been the main barrier?"
2. **Identifying Needs & Challenges**
 - "What challenges are you facing in your advocacy work (e.g., funding, networking, policy knowledge)?"
 - "How could FYP better support your projects or initiatives?"
3. **FYP's Potential Role**
 - "What types of resources, trainings, or collaborations would be most helpful to you?"
 - "If FYP were to launch a youth-led policy branch or think-tank, what topics or issues would you want it to address?"
4. **Policy & Think-Tank Interests**
 - "Are you interested in shaping policy or working with FYP on advocacy campaigns that influence decision-makers?"
 - "What would motivate you to contribute to a youth think-tank within FYP?"
5. **Communication & Next Steps**
 - "How do you prefer to stay informed (Slack, email, text)?"
 - "Would you like to join our focused mailing list for policy updates, new opportunities, and event invitations?"
6. **Closing**
 - "Is there anything else you'd like to share or any questions for us?"
 - "Thank you! We really value your insights—looking forward to collaborating more."

5. Expected Outcomes

- **Insights on Engagement Gaps:** Understand the “why” behind current participation patterns, informing strategies to revitalize Slack and event attendance.
 - **Policy & Think-Tank Roadmap:** Gauge interest and gather fresh ideas for a potential youth-led research and policy-advocacy branch under FYP.
 - **Targeted Support Initiatives:** Discover what trainings, mentorship, or resource-sharing can bolster advocates’ impact.
 - **Strengthened Relationships:** Increase advocates’ sense of belonging and ownership within FYP.
 - **Mailing List & Slack Reengagement:** Grow a targeted mailing list of members eager for updates and re-ignite Slack conversations through personal follow-ups.
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6. Brief Supporting Literature

- **Checkoway, B. (2011).** “What is youth participation?” *Children and Youth Services Review*, 33(2), 340–345.
 - Explores frameworks for meaningful youth engagement and the importance of direct dialogue.
 - **UNICEF (2018).** *Adolescent and Youth Engagement Strategic Framework*.
 - Emphasizes inclusive methods for involving young people in decision-making and policy influence.
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Revision #2

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