Youth as Objects, Recipients, Resources

**Young People Viewed As Objects**

* Adults know what is best for young people and control situations in which they allow them to be involved.
* Adults feel that young people have little to contribute and may work to keep young people in relatively powerless situations.
* Youth are not included in the design of the program or opportunity.
* Adults believe that the responsibility of the young person is to take advantage of the program or opportunity designed by the adult.

**Young People Viewed As Recipients**

* Adults allow young people to be valued in the design of the opportunity but the primary emphasis of this adult attitude is on how the young person will benefit from participation, not on what the young person has to offer to the design process.
* Adults are still well in control of the conditions under which the young person participates.
* Adults allow youth participation because of the value of the experience to the young person.
* Adults want to prepare young people for the future as responsible decision makers.

**Young People Viewed As Resources**

* Adults view young people as resources and respect the contribution young people can make to planning, operation, and evaluation.
* Leadership and decision-making roles involved can be shared by adults and young people.
* Both young people and adults may need to learn skills and attitudes necessary for shared decision making.
* Youth and adults both have strengths to contribute.