Station One: Focus Groups

Materials: Index cards and pencils

Task: Youth will participate in a brief group interview or focus group and think about the pros and cons of using focus groups for data collection.

Instructions for station facilitator:

Step 1: **READ**: A focus group is like a group interview about a specific topic or issue. If this were a real focus group, the discussion would be tape recorded or video recorded, and then researchers would watch or listen to it afterwards and take a lot of notes. Typically, researchers would type everything said and create a transcript of the conversation. From there, they would try to identify themes or ideas that a lot of people agreed on.

Step 2: Hand each member of the group an index card and pencil. **READ:** On the index card, write one question that you think would be interesting to get everyone’s ideas or opinions about. For example, “Where in your neighborhood do you hang out on weekends? Why?”

Once they have each written a questions, collect all of the cards and pick a question. Ask the group the question and ask additional questions.

Step 3: **READ:**  I will read some questions, we will discuss, and we will fill out our worksheet 3.10b.

-What do you like about focus groups?

-What do you think would be difficult about doing this kind of data collection?

Station two: Surveys

Materials: Copy the Survey Station Handout; Sample Survey Information Letter. One copy for each participant.

Task: Youth will take a survey, practice creating survey questions by adding questions in the blanks, and think about the pros and cons of using surveys for data collection.

Instructions for Station Facilitator:

Step 1: **READ**: Take the survey (3.10d) and complete the blank sections with questions that they make up.

Step 2: **READ:** What are the pros and cons of using a survey? Let’s discuss and then we will fill out their pros and cons worksheet (3.10b).

-Do you like taking the survey? What did you like? Not like?

-What kinds of questions are good for surveys?

-What are the benefits of using a survey to collect information? What are the weaknesses?

Station Three: Interviews

Task: Youth will take turns interviewing each other and will think about the pros and cons of using interviews for data collections.

Materials: Copy and cut out the Interview Station Questions and the Interview Consent Form.

Tips for Station Facilitator:

Step 1: **READ**: If this was a real interview, it would be tape recorded (or lots of notes would be taken), and reviewed later to pull out the main ideas and themes. Everyone review the consent forms. What is the importance of written permission?

Step 2: Split youth into pairs. Give each person one card with questions and instruct them to use these questions to conduct an interview. After two minutes, ask them to switch roles, with the other person asking the questions.

Step 3: **READ**: We will talk about these questions and fill out the worksheet 10.b.

-What kinds of questions got you to talk more?

-What do you think is good about collecting information from people this way?

-Can you envision any challenges in using interviews for your project?