



Olson YPE

Khristian, Adrianna, Ja'laura,
Mykeah, Carter, Michael



Research Question

How do students at Olson envision voice and choice in the classroom?

Why this question?

We chose this question because we wanted to know how students feel their voice is heard in the classroom.



Research Method

Focus Groups

- 3 groups- one each from 6th, 7th, and 8th grade
- 5 students per group, 8 questions
- Explained research question, rules of focus group, icebreaker question

Why Focus Groups?

We chose this method because we wanted a person to person interaction. We thought this would give us better answers.



Our Focus Group Questions

- *Talk about a time when a teacher really listened to your voice and opinion.*
 - Giving opinion in class
 - Class discussions/answering questions in class
 - Teachers don't listen/nothing to say
- *How do you feel when you are heard by a teacher?*
 - Appreciated, good
 - Quiet ones are not listened to
- *Think about teachers that use your interests in classroom lessons, What does this look like?*
 - Math uses student interests in word problems
 - Teachers giving candy



Our Focus Group Questions

- *Name the top thing about school that keeps you engaged.*
 - Sports/freetime/PE
 - Challenging math problems/math computer programs
 - Science experiments
- *Talk about a time when your teacher gave you options in the classroom.*
 - Most classes don't have options
 - Choosing to avoid punishment- "Do this or else _____"
 - Choose between movie or iPad
- *Which parts of the classroom would you like more of a say in?*
 - What books to read, what activities we do
 - Choose class schedule/specialist/advisory/explore classes
 - Where we sit



Our Focus Group Questions

- *If you could change one thing about your classroom, what would you change?*
 - Want more kids engaged in school work/more participation
 - More effective discipline
 - More hands on/active
- *Is there anything else you would like to share?*
 - More social time
 - Safe place to take a break so you don't have to ask for a red card
 - Learn different subjects, more things that involved the future (paying bills, bank accounts, etc.)
 - Teachers need to help everyone, not just those obviously struggling
 - Too many worksheets
 - Need more sports, lunch is bad



Recommendations

- More supplies and resources for the classroom
- Work on how everyone feels heard
- Change the learning method, more hands on than worksheets
- All the students should be treated the same vs favoritism
- Give students more of a say in which activity they in do in class



Reflection

It could be frustrating doing the focus groups. Sometimes they can be fun. Felt good to feel in control leading a group, felt proud to have a leadership role. Learned to stay patient and calm.

What would you do different?

Stay even more calm, be specific when asking questions, make sure the students speak up. More time to meet with YPE group.

Next year?

Have kids from different grades in YPE. Research a more specific question.