



Conversation starters

Consider setting up open discussions with youth researchers, using these questions as prompts. You could use these conversations starters alongside the 'Mapping abilities and roles' tool included in this toolkit.

Getting to know each other...

What is one strength you bring which will help you and the team in this project?

What are three important things you want your colleagues to know about you?
What are your passions?

What skills would you like to improve? Or things you are interested in learning? What are you hoping to achieve through this project?

If you think back on the journey which has led you to working on this project, what would be the significant events that have brought you here?

What are you most excited about? What do you feel nervous or uncertain about?

What (if any) youth engagement or research roles have you been part of previously?
What did these involve?
What was good?
What was challenging?
How do you think this role will be different/similar?

What questions do you have for each other at the start of this project?

What are your preferred ways of working? What doesn't work for you?



Discussing roles and responsibilities...

What tasks or activities are you most interested in? Is there anything that you would like to be responsible for?

What response times are reasonable/manageable for you?

The time commitment for this role is <insert>. Is/how can we make this manageable for you?

My responsibilities could look like <insert>. How does that sound to you? What questions do you have about how we will work together?

How do you prefer to describe your role? Youth researcher? Co-researcher? Other? What is your understanding of the parts of this project/the research you will be involved in?

Discussing communication...

How would you like to communicate?
What are your preferred channels?
How often? What are your preferred times, dates and regularity?

What is your availability looking like this week?



Discussing youth researcher goals...

In my role, I could support you by doing <insert>. What do you think? How would you like me to support you? What things need to be in place?

How would you like to be involved in this project? What would you be interested in?

You could try out <insert tasks>. How does that sound? Is there anything you would like to have a go at?

What new skills, knowledge and experience would you like to build through the course of this project?

What are your short-term (e.g., next 12 months) and long-term career goals (e.g., next 2-4 years)?

Discussing challenges or concerns...

What opportunities does this challenge present to us? What can we review/think differently about?

What are we assuming here? How are our assumptions holding us back?



If there are delays/challenges with delivering tasks...

Do you have any concerns or questions about the project or any tasks you are working on? How are you going with your tasks? Do you need any clarification or further support?

Are there any tasks that make you feel uncomfortable?

Are there any tasks that you feel unsure about, or are feeling stuck on? Let's chat about these and make a plan for how we can progress!

What's your availability like at the moment? Please let us know if you have any other priorities and how we can support you to complete the current tasks for the project.

Obtaining constructive feedback/reflection...

Are there any concerns/challenges with this project at the moment?

Thinking about <insert aspect of the project e.g. who we are researching, the questions we are asking, our methodology>, what are we assuming? How might this be impacting our decisions?

Who else do we need to involve, speak to or ask for support?

What can we stop/start/change which would help us move forward?



When celebrating achievements...

What are you most proud of achieving?

How can we use our achievements to profile our work, process, and learnings?

How can we communicate our achievements with others?