

Using Prudential Youth Leadership Institute to Enhance Teen Leadership

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Prudential Youth Leadership Institute (PYLI) was created by The Center for Creative Leadership with assistance from Youth Service America and The Points of Light Foundation. It is administered through POLF. It is a “road map” (process) for change, projects and problem solving. This process is called the Creative Leadership Process

The Creative Leadership Process is used as a way to teach young people how to plan and conduct local community service projects but it also works for any project a young person might undertake. It systematically walks participants through the steps they should be taking as they plan their project. These eight steps, explained below, are:

- Assessment
- Formulation
- Transformation
- Goal Setting
- Planning and Organizing
- Evaluation and Control
- Implementation
- Reassessment

Assessment is the step where you gather information about the situational, human and cultural conditions that will affect your project. You make sure the project is needed or wanted and that you have the ability to conduct the project with the resources you have – people, money, time, space and materials.

Step two, Formulation is where you identify and state the basic problem or issue you will be working to correct or improve.

Once you know what you focusing upon, you need to move to Transformation. This step encourages you to determine the exact problem or issue; then define possible solutions from many different angles.

After you know exactly what the problem is you want to address, you move to step four – Goal Setting. This is where you decide exactly what you wish to accomplish. Your goal should be specific, measurable, attainable, realistic and trackable.

Step five is Planning and Organizing. This encompasses all the details of how to reach your goal. Much attention needs to be given to planning these details. This step often doesn't get the attention it needs so step six, one that is often overlooked, becomes important.

In the Evaluation and Control step, participants learn to review the details and the possibilities of unexpected events. This step teaches to expect the unexpected and troubleshoot before trouble occurs.

Step seven is Implementation – just doing it!.

And finally, step eight – Reassessment is reflection, evaluation and recognition. Reviewing how to improve or what is learned is the real lesson of community service.

Prudential Youth Leadership Institute (PYLI) offers a wonderful model for young people to follow as they plan projects. The Prince William 4-H Teen Leadership Club uses this model for the variety of community service projects they conduct.

Workshop participants experienced some of the activities used to teach PYLI and had a chance to review some of the materials and curriculum. To get the curriculum, you must attend a PYLI training. Once certified, you will receive the materials, an on line newsletter and access to support and aid.