

BRIDGE to Adulthood:

A large suspension bridge with two tall concrete towers and numerous vertical cables. The bridge spans across a wide body of water. In the background, there are rolling hills or mountains under a clear sky. The bridge deck is visible with some vehicles and a green highway sign.

Mentoring Strategies for Older Youth

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YouthBuild USA National Mentoring Alliance

Objectives



By the end of this session, we hope you will be able to:

- Articulate some of the hopes, dreams, and challenges of “Opportunity Youth”
- Identify proven practices for mentoring youth transitioning into adulthood that you can apply in your programs
- Locate and use available resources for mentoring older youth.

Who are “Opportunity Youth”?



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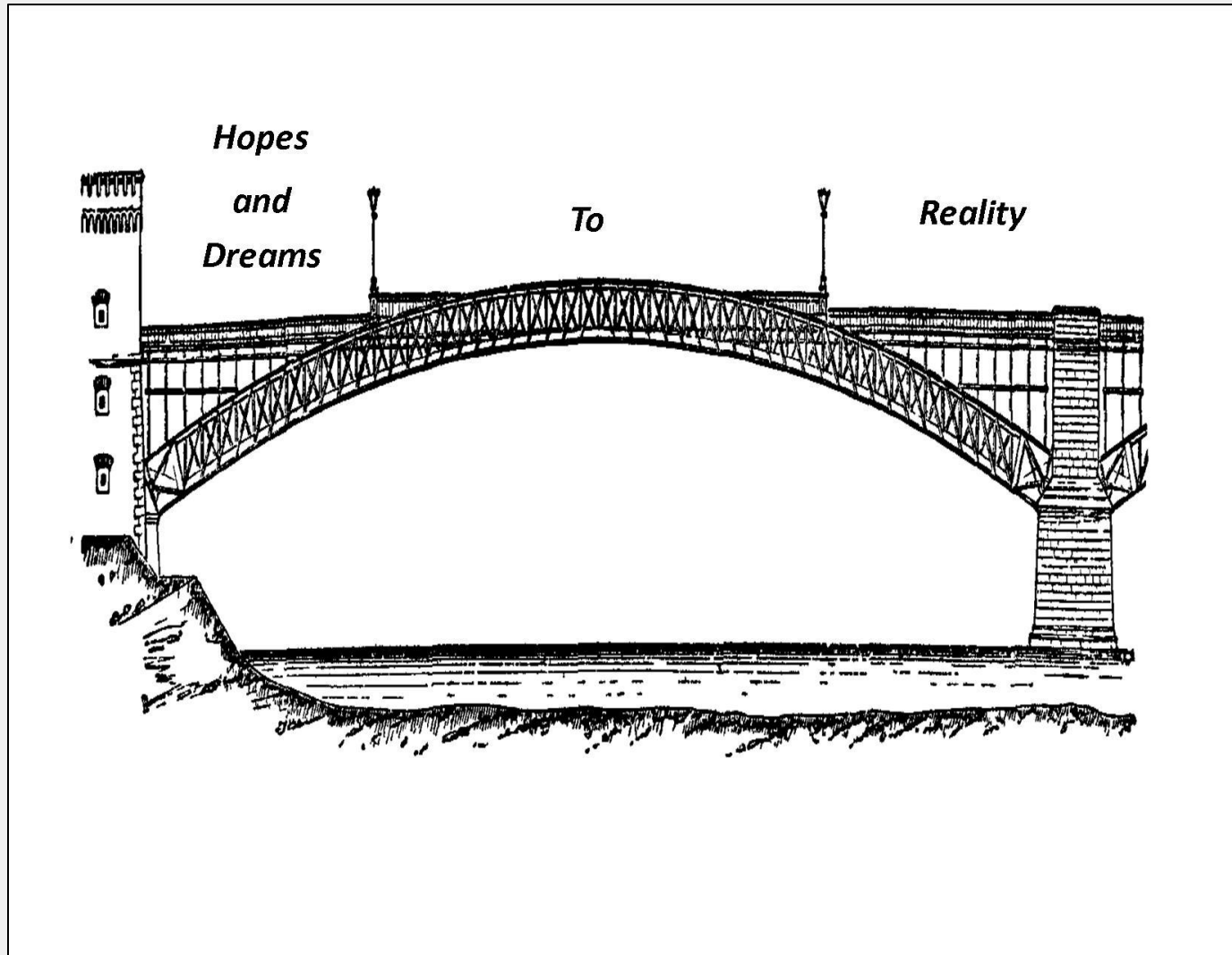
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Hopes & Dreams



The dream gap



Ah ha moment



Why a bridge matters



How to build a BRIDGE



- **B**elonging
- **R**esponsibility
- Initiative
- **D**iligence
- **G**reatness
- **E**fficacy

(With appreciation to Dr. Ron Ferguson, Senior Lecturer in Education & Public Policy, Harvard Graduate School of Education)



“If I dismiss the ordinary – waiting for the special, the extreme, the extraordinary to happen – I may just miss my life.”

~ Dani Shapiro

What BRIDGE building is... and isn't



- **Problem-solving vs. dream-casting**
- **Small bridges, big impact**
- **For the good of a craft (or culture) vs. for the good of an individual**
- **Character-focused vs career-focused**
- **More “Why”, less “Why not”**



*“Ever tried, ever failed. No matter. Try again.
Fail again. Fail better.”*

~ Samuel Becket

Building the Bridge



Ah ha moment



Building a bridge is...



- Necessary
- Hard
- Risky
- Full of unanticipated outcomes
- What else?

Crossing the BRIDGE: Lessons Learned



- Trust is foundational
- Mentoring is not done in a silo
- Assess at appropriate times – expect growing pains, allow for them
- Recruit mentors for the bumpy ride over the long haul

Crossing the BRIDGE: Success includes...



- Youth voice/choice in recruitment, selection, engagement, and transition
- Group mentoring in support of one-on-one relationships
- 1 mentee, many mentors
- Preparing youth for lifetime of mentors
- Community leaders as mentors – placement (and program) champions
- Program leaders that take ownership

BRIDGE Resources: CoP



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Finding Mentors

YouthBuild
Building Green
Rebuilding Lives

Finding Success

What's Next?

Introduction to Postsecondary Education Planning

{ where would you like to begin? choose your path above. }

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What's Next?

College Knowledge

Where would you like to begin? Choose your path above.

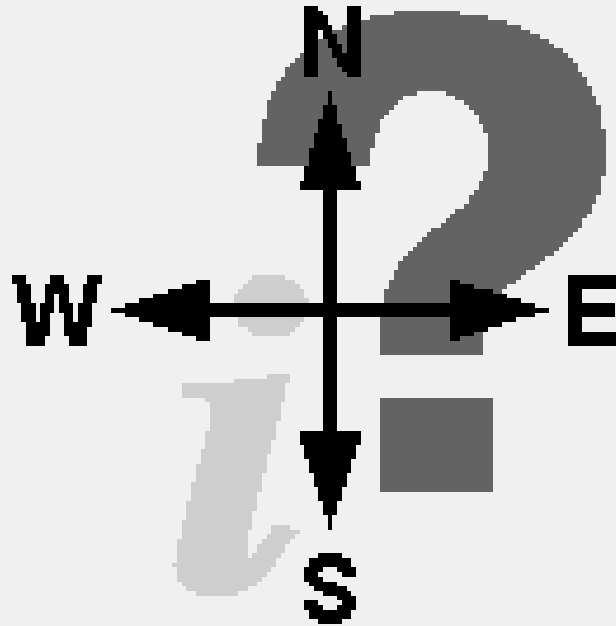
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The other side of the BRIDGE



- Lifelong relationships
- Co-mentoring opportunities
- The mentored becomes the mentor
- BRIDGE maintenance

Questions? Answers?
Non sequiturs?



Stay connected



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