

The purpose of this document is to provide detail about Hart's Ladder of Participation by illustrating concrete youth and adult actions in a classroom environment at each rung of youth participation. It is our hope that youth and adults will be able to use this tool to identify their current location on Hart's Ladder in regards to classroom interactions and spur conversations about how to increase youth involvement and youth voice in the classroom and beyond.

8

**Youth initiated shared decisions with adults:**

Youth-led activities, in which decision-making is shared between youth and adults working as equal partners.

7

**Youth initiated and directed:**

Youth-led activities with little input from adults.

6

**Adult initiated shared decisions with youth:**

Adult-led activities, in which decision-making is shared with youth.

5

**Consulted and informed:**

Adult-led activities, in which youth are consulted and informed about how their input will be used and the outcomes of adult decisions.

4

**Assigned, but informed:**

Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, decision-making process, and have a role.

3

**Tokenism:**

Adult-led activities, in which youth may be consulted with minimal opportunities for feedback.

2

**Decoration:**

Adult-led activities, in which youth understand purpose, but have no input in how they are planned.

1

**Manipulation:**

Adult-led activities, in which youth do as directed without understanding the purpose of the activities.