

SERC Library: Topical Literature Search

Leveraging Student Voices to Create Positive Change in Classrooms & Communities - May 2018

This resource guide includes research and other recent informative articles pulled from literature and the Library's educational database service for schools, programs, service providers and families with a focus on listening to and learning from the voices of our students as valued partners in shaping culturally responsive and inclusive schools and classrooms, toward the goal of achieving successful outcomes for all learners. It should be noted that it does not represent the full scope of resources and information available on this topic nor serve as an endorsement of a particular resource.

Introductory Articles:

1) **Balancing power in communities of practice: An examination of increasing student voice through school-based youth-adult partnerships**

Mitra, D. L. (2008). Balancing power in communities of practice: An examination of increasing student voice through school-based youth-adult partnerships. *Journal Of Educational Change*, 9(3), 221-242. doi:10.1007/s10833-007-9061-7

This article examines how power imbalances influence the formation of student voice initiatives, which are defined as school-based youth-adult partnerships that consist of youth and adults contributing to decision making processes, learning from one another, and promoting change. Using the concept of *community of practice* as a lens, the author discusses the ways in which power influences mutual engagement, shared repertoire, and joint enterprise of youth-adult partnerships. Specifically, the study finds that the following strategies can strengthen student voice initiatives: building meaningful roles based on mutual responsibility and respect among all members; developing shared language and norms; and developing joint enterprises aimed at fostering voices that have previously been silenced from decision making and knowledge-building processes.

To learn more: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=33333199&site=eds-live&scope=site>

2) **Beyond School Spirit: The Effects of Youth-Led Participatory Action Research in Two Urban High Schools**

Ozer, E. J., & Wright, D. (2012). Beyond School Spirit: The Effects of Youth-Led Participatory Action Research in Two Urban High Schools. *Journal Of Research On Adolescence (Wiley-Blackwell)*, 22(2), 267-283.

Prior research highlights the mismatch between adolescents' growing capacities for autonomy and the limited opportunities for influence in U.S. secondary schools. Youth-led participatory research (YPAR), an approach in which young people research and advocate for change on problems of concern to them, could increase students' autonomy in secondary schools. This qualitative study of YPAR examined whether and how the intervention meaningfully affected the interactions and roles of students and adults in two distinctive urban high school settings, identifying concepts for further empirical investigation. Results suggested that YPAR enabled processes of student professionalization that led to novel student-adult "collegial" interactions, expansion of domains of student influence, and diversification of students with opportunities to influence policies and practices across these two schools.

To learn more: <http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pbh&AN=75254140&site=eds-live&scope=site>

For access to other topical education-related research briefs available through the SERC Library, please go to:

<http://ctserc.org/library/research-guides>

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List of Sources:

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- Elliott, K. O. (2016).** Queering Student Perspectives: Gender, Sexuality and Activism in School. *Sex Education: Sexuality, Society And Learning, 16*(1), 49-62.
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- Fox, K. (2016).** Young Voice, Big Impact. *Principal, 96*(2), 28-31.
- Friend, J., & Caruthers, L. (2015).** Transforming the School Reform Agenda: A Framework for Including Student Voice in Urban School Renewal. *Journal Of Urban Learning, Teaching, And Research, 11*14-25.
- Howard, T. C. (2003).** "A Tug of War for Our Minds:" African American High School Students' Perceptions of their Academic Identities and College Aspirations. *High School Journal, 87*(1), 4.
- Mitra, D. L. (2008).** Amplifying Student Voice. *Educational Leadership, 66*(3), 20.
- Mitra, D. (2006).** Increasing Student Voice and Moving Toward Youth Leadership. *Prevention Researcher, 13*(1), 7-10.
- Mitra, D. L., & Serriere, S. C. (2012).** Student Voice in Elementary School Reform: Examining Youth Development in Fifth Graders. *American Educational Research Journal, 49*(4), 743. doi:10.3102/0002831212443079
- Shaunessy, E., & McHatton, P. (2009).** Urban Students' Perceptions of Teachers: Views of Students in General, Special, and Honors Education. *Urban Review, 41*(5), 486. doi:10.1007/s11256-008-0112-z
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- Storz, M. (2008).** Educational Inequity from the Perspectives of Those Who Live It: Urban Middle School Students' Perspectives on the Quality of their Education. *Urban Review, 40*(3), 247-267.
- Taines, C. (2014).** Educators and youth activists: A negotiation over enhancing students' role in school life. *Journal Of Educational Change, 15*(2), 153-178. doi:10.1007/s10833-013-9220-y
- Williams, J. M., & Portman, T. A. (2014).** "No One Ever Asked Me": Urban African American Students' Perceptions of Educational Resilience. *Journal Of Multicultural Counseling & Development, 42*(1), 13-30.

Links to Information

(Go to: <http://ctserc.org/library/research-guides>)

"A Tug of War for Our Minds:" African American High School Students' Perceptions of their Academic Identities and College Aspirations

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=f5h&AN=11412055&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Amplifying Student Voice

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mih&AN=35013891&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Educational Inequity from the Perspectives of Those Who Live It: Urban Middle School Students' Perspectives...

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pbh&AN=34045040&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Educators and youth activists: A negotiation over enhancing students' role in school life

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=95320716&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Giving students voice...strategy for improving teacher practice

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=59165423&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Increasing Student Voice...Moving Toward Youth Leadership

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=22179317&site=eds-live&scope=site>

"No One Ever Asked Me": Urban African American Students' Perceptions of Educational Resilience

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=pbh&AN=93427795&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Queering student perspectives: gender, sexuality and activism in school

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eric&AN=EJ1085638&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Student Voice in Elementary School Reform: Examining Youth Development in Fifth Graders

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=edb&AN=77756310&site=eds-live&scope=site>

The Perspectives of Students With and Without Disabilities on Inclusive Schools

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=110716841&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Through Students' Eyes: Students Offer Fresh Insights into Social Justice Issues in Schools

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eric&AN=EJ914962&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Transforming the School Reform Agenda: A Framework for Including Student Voice in Urban School Renewal

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=eric&AN=EJ1071419&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Urban Students' Perceptions of Teachers: Views of Students in General, Special, and Honors Education

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=mfi&AN=44841637&site=eds-live&scope=site>

Young Voice, Big Impact

<http://search.ebscohost.com/login.aspx?direct=true&db=ehh&AN=119476301&site=eds-live&scope=site>