After-School Growth: What Young People Have to Say

A response to: “Democracy and Development: The Role of Outside-of-School Experiences in Preparing Young People to Be Active Citizens”

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ABSTRACT

In the context of a conference on after-school programs, sponsored by the nonprofit All Stars Project, youth from the organization’s programs discuss their experiences and growth as citizens. Their discussion illustrates how outside-of-school social and cultural development helps disenfranchised youth to see themselves as part of the broader society and as having the capacity to shape that society and to lead others.

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broaden the world. The youth panelists are: Chris Elian, James McLain, George Pedraza, Faith Vann, Franceli Chapman, and Nyisha Edwards.

Their comments illustrate the ways in which developmental after-school programs have made possible the kind of “citizenship” growth where poor, Black, and Latino young people—among the most disenfranchised groups in America—come to see themselves as part of the broader society and as having the capacity to shape that society and to lead others. Also of note and relevance is the quality of their personal performances (how they are talking) as a component of their capacity to take the world somewhere new.

References


