

EMPOWERING YOUTH, EXPLORING JUSTICE



Mission:

EYEJ drives social justice reform by empowering young people to advocate for change.

Vision:

An equitable and inclusive world.

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YODJ: Youth Online
Discussing Justice

YODJ: Youth Online Discussing Justice Pricing Model

The coronavirus pandemic hasn't altered EYEJ's mission to drive social justice reform by empowering young people to advocate for change. Discussion Series groups are still meeting, virtually, through a program called Youth Online Discussing Justice (YODJ). Like the in-person Discussion Series, YODJ affords public school students the chance to meet regularly with trained professionals to engage on a wide array of practical topics in a judgment-free setting. YODJ is the first step in empowering young people to advocate for change and leads to the EYEJ Youth Council, in which youth continue to grow as changemakers while implementing social justice reform. At this time, EYEJ has a relationship with 23 schools and 4 recreation centers in Cleveland.

Youth Online Discussing Justice (YODJ) connects students in grades 6 through 12 with the necessary resources for day-to-day life social-emotional needs specifically with today's very relevant isolation, anxiety and healing issues desperately needed. During the discussions diverse guests including local community members, peers, and any one of 900 other volunteers meet with students in a safe, intimate environment that encourages honesty on difficult subjects. Of the over 1,600 participants in the program to date, 65 percent have reported learning about social justice issues for the first time, and 45 percent have promised to employ that new awareness in their everyday lives.

The 10-week YODJ program consists of seven weeks in discussion and three weeks in a "Reflection Event". The most recent "Reflection Event" was a Photo Display Project. Five students impressed the public with an exhibition of photographs about toxic stress, self-esteem, body image, poverty, and Cleveland's ongoing Digital Divide.

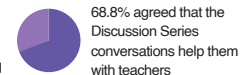
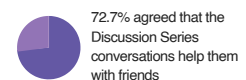
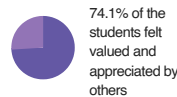
Pricing

Mindful of the new economic pressures on schools during the coronavirus pandemic, EYEJ is shifting to a flexible payment plan. Starting this fall, EYEJ's 10-week online Speaker Series programs will move to a "pay what you can" model, with a suggested price of \$7,500. This represents a significant savings fueled by the lower costs of online programming and a desire to lighten the load on schools during these unprecedented times.

Topics

- Exploring Violence
- Toxic Stress
- Exploring Money
- Conflict Resolution
- Digital Literacy
- Police Youth
- Relations
- Achieving a Positive Mindset
- Civil Rights
- Education
- Equality
- Healthy Eating
- Power & Privilege
- Race & Justice
- Stress & Its Triggers

Impact



Discussion Series has increased conditions for learning scores from 1-8% depending on the school.

Testimonies

Students Quotes

- "I've taken what we've talked about and applied them to how I live, really YODJ has taught me a lot but has also made me realize a lot about myself that I didn't know. It has inspired me to be more me instead of anything less." - 11th grader from MC2 STEM High School
- "You can use it to cope with the world and as inspiration to make change, even in the slightest way. You can take activities in the program and use them in school, church, or wherever. I feel that promotes positive change. It opened my eyes, and will do the same for others." - 11th grader at MC2 STEM High School
- "I can express my emotions better and I can influence others by being a good role model" - 10th grader from Ballard High School
- "We are taught from a young age to be worried about so many things that do not matter but it's up to us to break that cycle and focus on what matter" - 11th grader from Northeast Ohio College Preparatory School after our conversation about Violence
- "I have started addressing the problems in my life to spread awareness to others" - 11th grader from Saint Joseph Academy

Volunteers Quotes

- "YODJ helps because it allows students to dive deeper into issues that may not be addressed anywhere else in their lives. It offers a safe space to share personal experiences." - Volunteer Speaker and Graduate student at Case Western Reserve
- "YODJ gives youth a platform and connects them with people who could be mentors and role models." - Volunteer Facilitator and Educator at Campus International School
- "I think a lot of young people want to talk about these topics that are relevant to them, but aren't always given the opportunity or the tools to engage in these conversations. That's why YODJ is so unique, and so important!" - Volunteer Facilitator and Educator in East Cleveland City Schools

EYEJ



Youth
Council



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