



## ***Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum Facilitation Tips***

The National Runaway Safeline's *Let's Talk: Runaway Prevention Curriculum* is a valuable resource for anyone working with youth. The curriculum addresses important youth issues and the realities of crisis situations, helping to start a dialogue with youth about safe options and resources that are available to them.

*Let's Talk* is an evidence-based, 14 module life skills curriculum for youth. The overall goals are to educate youth about alternatives to running away, helping them to build life skills so they can resolve problems as they arise, and inform youth about safe resources and seeking help from trusted community members. The curriculum is available to free download from [www.1800RUNAWAY.org](http://www.1800RUNAWAY.org).

While the curriculum is user friendly and can be easily implemented, below are some facilitation tips for implementing *Let's Talk* and sample questions that can help get youth participants talking.

### **Facilitation Tips<sup>1</sup>**

- Allow youth to participate as they feel comfortable by offering different options for involvement.
- Allow enough time for discussion.
- Be prepared with ways to get the group back on track.
- Be prepared to give definitions or explain concepts.
- Be prepared with examples to help generate discussion.
- Be a good listener- ask follow-up questions, provide supportive statements and paraphrase.
- Consider room layout, especially for activities that require movement.
- Establish classroom guidelines for behavior in order to create a safe space for participation and sharing.
- Give students time to respond, silence can be okay, allow students time to process.
- Group size and energy may determine format of activity.
- Some activities ask students to read aloud, be aware of individual skill level.
- Some conversations may bring up issues for some youth be prepared to have a follow-up plan in place.
- Take note of the facilitator tip icons for each module.
- Know when and how much personal information to share - youth like to hear life experiences, so know what you feel comfortable sharing.

1) Modified from article from the University of Oregon – teaching engagement program <http://tep.uoregon.edu>

2) Modified from Facilitation Guidelines- Suggested Facilitation Questions <http://www.cyberschoolbus.un.org>

- Don't be afraid to modify to meet your specific group's needs.
- Ease test phobia while asking youth to take it seriously when completing the pre and post activity forms.

### Sample Facilitation Questions<sup>2</sup>

- What else did you observe/experience?
- Can you be more specific?
- Can you say that another way?
- Who else had the same reaction or a different one?
- Do you see a pattern, common ground, connections differences?
- What was significant about what you did/heard/saw?
- What does that suggest to you?
- What can we conclude from \_\_\_\_\_?
- Does this remind you of anything?
- How does this relate to your experiences?
- How can you use that information?
- What are the consequences of doing or not doing \_\_\_\_\_?
- How can you adapt this information to make it applicable to you?
- What do you think that means?
- Why is that important?
- Why do you think that is?

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