

# Recognizing Adulthood in Schools

**Purpose:** For youth and adults to recognize where adults have more power than youth and unpack stories about the resulting experiences.

**Time:** 30 minutes

**Materials:** Sticky notes and markers or electronic equivalent (e.g., Jamboard) and computers

**Group size:** Groups of 15 or fewer people, ideally. In larger groups, simply break into smaller groups.

## Directions:

1. Give everyone sticky notes (in person) or access to a Jamboard (virtual).
2. Ask the question, "How are adults given more power than young people in our schools?" Ask for or provide two examples to begin.
3. Participants write down as many ideas as they can in two minutes. If you are using Jamboard, answers will automatically populate the screen. If you are using sticky notes, ask everyone to post them in a common area.
4. As a group, sort the ideas into categories. Make sure the ideas are read aloud so everyone may hear.
5. Ask students to share stories related to a category or sticky note. "Tell us about an experience you had when adults had the power related to one of these categories. When was it? What happened? What was the impact? How did you feel?" Sharing should be optional.
6. Ask adults to share their reflection on the question: "What beliefs, mindsets or biases do I need to further explore as I consider partnering with students?"

Sample:

