

Since its inception in 2008, [YPI Scotland](#) has empowered over 270,000 young people to make a difference in their communities. As a mentor, you will be supporting students to develop key employability skills including confidence, resilience, and communication. Alongside providing clear added value to the students, the experience provides an opportunity for professional development, drawing upon your experience and skill set in a unique context.

This document provides an overview of the key programme milestones and outline considerations that you may wish to reflect on prior to mentoring sessions or the creation of a video input for students.

Part one – Understanding social issues and my community

Recommended advance reading: [YPI Launch Video](#) (9:22)
[YPI Judging Pack](#)

Student learning intentions	Mentor considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To revisit the launch and purpose of engaging in the YPI process. To understand what a social issue is. To understand the importance of teamwork for YPI. To select a social issue as a team to focus on for YPI. 	<p>You can support and guide students to explain and articulate why a particular social issue is important to them. Being able to do so will be invaluable when it comes to developing their final YPI presentations.</p> <p>Questions to consider exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Why did you choose this social issue to research? How have your values or experiences influenced your choice? What has surprised, resonated, or stuck with you from what you learned about the social issue? How do you think the social issue is perceived in the community? What perceptions or stereotypes can you find about the social issue in the media? What do you think about how it is portrayed? What attitudes/behaviours do you hope to change most around this issue? Does what you have learned on this issue bring up more questions you are curious about? If so, what?

Part two – Exploring the third sector

Optional advance reading: [A guide to working & volunteering in the voluntary sector](#)

Student learning intentions	Mentor considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To better understand how the third sector and charities operate. To reflect on how charities evaluate outcomes and impact. To fully understand the YPI eligibility criteria. To research and further understand the impact of three shortlisted charities on the local community. To reach a consensus on which charity will be focused on for YPI & prepare a team project timeline. 	<p>As a mentor, you will support students during the research phase of the process. Drawing on your skills and experience, students may need support when considering which charity they feel will have/is having the greatest impact locally. It may be challenging for the team to reach a consensus, and you can help them navigate this.</p> <p>Questions to consider exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Having researched charities, what has inspired you about the programmes, projects, or impacts? Considering your shortlisted charities for YPI, which do you feel is making the most impact locally? Do you all agree? If not, then why not? How can you reach a consensus as a team?

Part three – charity selection and active research

Recommended advance reading: [The Big Four](#) video (5:39)

Learning intentions	Mentor considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To successfully engage with selected charities using both verbal and written communication. To coordinate successful charity contact. To gather information from the charity which will support the development of a compelling presentation. 	<p>This part of the YPI process can be particularly daunting for young people. You can provide invaluable guidance which will support students to make initial contact with a charity in a professional manner, for example drafting an email or preparing for a phone call.</p> <p>As a mentor you can also support your team to plan for productive and meaningful charity engagement. You may wish to be present when they speak with the charity, however it remains important to play a discreet role which will enable the students to lead the session.</p> <p>Questions to consider exploring (before the charity engagement):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will your team have a meaningful interview and engage with your charity? How will your team build a strong relationship with the charity and its staff? What are each of your strengths? How will you work together to gather information from your charity? What questions can your team ask that will help you to understand the charity and its impact on the local community? What else can you learn or gather from your engagement that will help your team to prepare a strong, compelling presentation? <p>Questions to consider exploring (after the charity engagement):</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How did you feel during your experience of contacting and interacting with a charity in your community? What challenges did you have? How did you feel after your engagement with the charity? What surprised you most from what you learned? In your YPI presentation, what would you really want to get across to your peers? To adults? Now that you know more about your chosen charity, how do you think your skills, time, or resources could help them?

Part four – Presentation development and YPI Final Showcase

Optional advance reading: [Creativity Zone](#) on the YPI Website and creativity & inspiration section on our [Vimeo](#) page

Learning intentions	Mentor considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> To deliver a presentation which demonstrates a clear understanding of the chosen social issue and respective charity, including information relating to impact and outcomes. To develop and deliver an engaging and creative presentation which fulfils the judging criteria To ensure all team members are actively involved in the presentation development process. 	<p>As a mentor you will be able to support students to deliver impactful and engaging presentations, drawing on your experience from the workplace or completing YPI. It is important that both yourself and the team are familiar with the judging criteria. Using this as a basis for discussion and presentation development will ensure that the team meet the key requirements.</p> <p>Questions to consider exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> How will your team communicate information about your social issue and charity in an engaging and impactful way? How can you as a team use your skills to deliver the most effective presentation? Will it be live or digital or both? What information do you think the judges are looking for? How can you be creative in your presentation? How can you explain why this specific social issue and charity is important to you as a team, and the wider community? How can you clearly demonstrate the impact that the £3000 will have on people in the community? How can you explain the impact that the charity engagement had on you as individuals and as a collective team? Did anything shock you? Do you plan to stay engaged with the charity after YPI? What was your greatest learning for your experience with YPI?

Plenary and reflections – extend the impact

Recommended advance reading: [Make a Difference \(2:52\) video](#)

Learning intentions	Mentor considerations
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> For students to reflect, consolidate, and celebrate the ways in which they have/can become individuals more confident in their values, who see themselves as responsible, effective contributors to their community. 	<p>The plenary is an important session to enable students to reflect on their YPI experience. You can support students in this reflective phase and provide feedback having observed them progress through the programme.</p> <p>Questions to consider exploring:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> What did you learn about your values through YPI? What (if any) new values did you develop over the course of the project? What skills have you developed that you will continue to use in other areas of your life? What did you learn about social issues in your community through YPI? What do you see as your role in your community in relation to social issues you care about? Will you continue to help the charity you chose for YPI? Why or why not? If so, how? Do you feel inspired to do any other charity or advocacy work?