

Persistent, Proactive, & Personal Planning for the Teen Presence in Your Library

what we'll cover

- Getting buy-in from fellow staff & administration
- Addressing physical space needs & limitations
- Building support for positive teen interactions
- Developing a full range of services

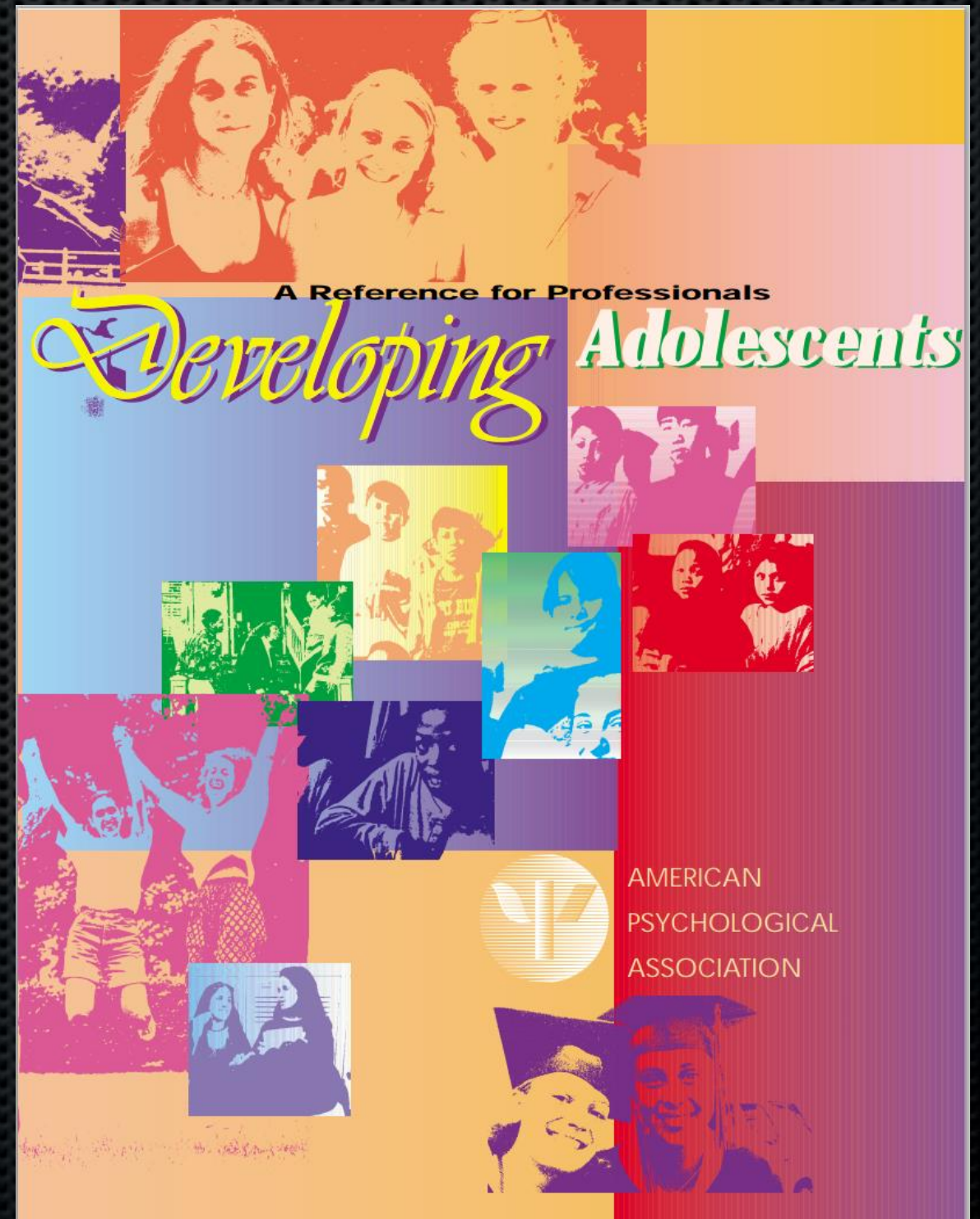
getting to “yes!” w/ staff

- Ephebiphobia?
- You won't succeed as a lone ranger
- Get info in front of others
- Expand the range of voices
- Be local



resources to draw on

- SLJ/VOYA
- APA
- YALSA
- Pew
- YPulse
- Potential local partners



where will they go once they're here?

- Good/better/best model for space development
- Get staff on the same page
- Teen buy-in & investment in behavior
- Don't build a fortress- head off problems
- Set the right tone
- Accept a wide range of library appropriate behaviors

what's in their heads?

- Foundation: adolescent development
- Daily life of a teen
- Abandoning adult experience
- Broken windows/broken trust
- Seeing a continuum of behaviors
- Consistency & context



teens in the library

- Vine.co (6 second microcontent videos from a smartphone app)
- Let's watch these together, & see if we can recognize activities within the range of the continuum of typical teen behavior



intervene or ignore?

- The phenomenon of negative attention
- Effects: lacking life experience
- Utilizing perspective
- Context-based responses
- Dangerous vs. annoying behavior



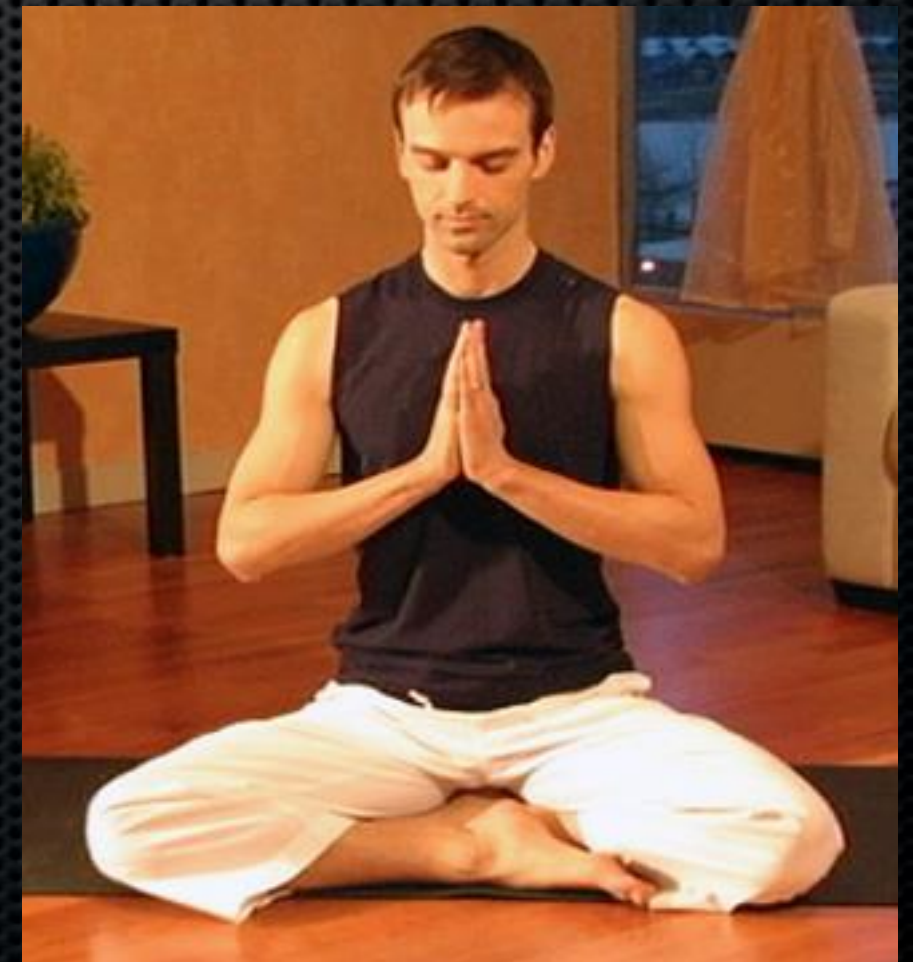
preserving dignity (& sanity)



- Peer perceptions
- Circular talk
- Offering choices, offering dignity
- Enforcing as few rules as possible?!
- Letting go of your own teen years

what's my script?

- You are the party host
- Don't give in to knee-jerk reactions
- Take a deep breath
- Let go of past experiences
- Everyone loves a sandwich!
- Turn the choice over to them



develop a full range of services

- Library goals, teen development goals
- “Invisible” teens in your community
- Changing perceptions of what a “library” is
- What do they want? What do they not know exists?
- Marketing teen style
- Rethink programming as a concept
- Envision a wide range of library activities

questions?

take it further

SLJ slj.com

VOYA voyamagazine.com

YALSA ala.org/yalsa

APA apa.org/pi/cyf/develop.pdf

Pew pewinternet.org/topics/Teens.aspx

4H bit.ly/LSUagteens

YPulse ypulse.com

thanks!

erindowney@gmail.com

@hybridlib on Twitter