



# *Powerful Youth, Powerful Communities*

## *The Youth Development Benefits of Community Organizing*

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# Acknowledging Our Fantastic Research Team and Foundation Partners

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# Seven Participating Organizations



***Coleman Advocates  
for Children and Youth,  
San Francisco; California,***

***Kenwood Oakland Community Organization,  
Chicago; Illinois, USA***

***VAYLA,  
New Orleans; Louisiana, USA***

***Padres & Jóvenes Unidos,  
Denver; Colorado, USA***

***WIMPS, Belfast, Northern Ireland  
aka Where Is My Public Servant?***

***The Base, Dublin,  
Republic of Ireland***

***Equal Education,  
Khayelitsha, Western Cape;  
Cape Town, S. Africa***

## Sources of Evidence

Data Source	Amount	Description
Fieldwork: Observation	203 typed sets of detailed field notes (roughly 300 hours of observation)	Local ethnographers did fieldwork and participant-observation for 18-24 months, including trainings, direct action, community-building, and meetings with public officials.
Fieldwork: Interviews	102 total interviews (roughly 75 hours)	Local ethnographers interviewed youth about their experiences and what they reported learning through their participation.
Surveys	184 surveys completed	Surveys asked youth to report on their experiences within the organizations, and assess their civic engagement and academic development.
Documents and media	Hundreds of items	We collected and analyzed a range of materials from organizations including photographs, press releases, news articles, and reports.
Youth voices	A series of quotes and photographs	Youth produced multimedia artifacts about their experiences and aspirations

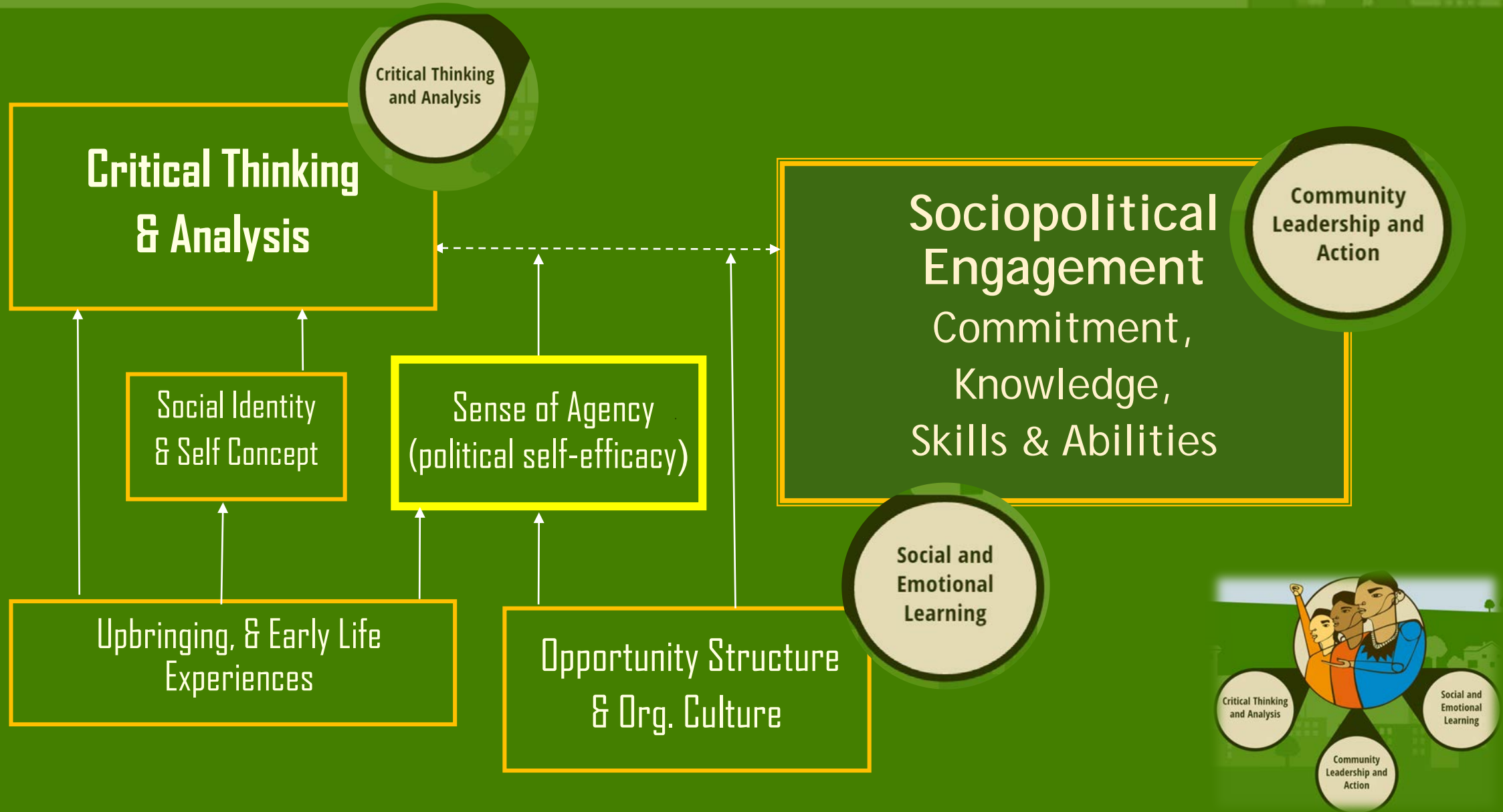
# POWERFUL YOUTH, POWERFUL COMMUNITIES

A Resource For Learning About Youth Organizing

- Theory
- Content
- Context
- Process
- Modes



# Sociopolitical Development



# "Content"



Critical Thinking  
and Analysis



**Critical Thinking  
and Analysis**

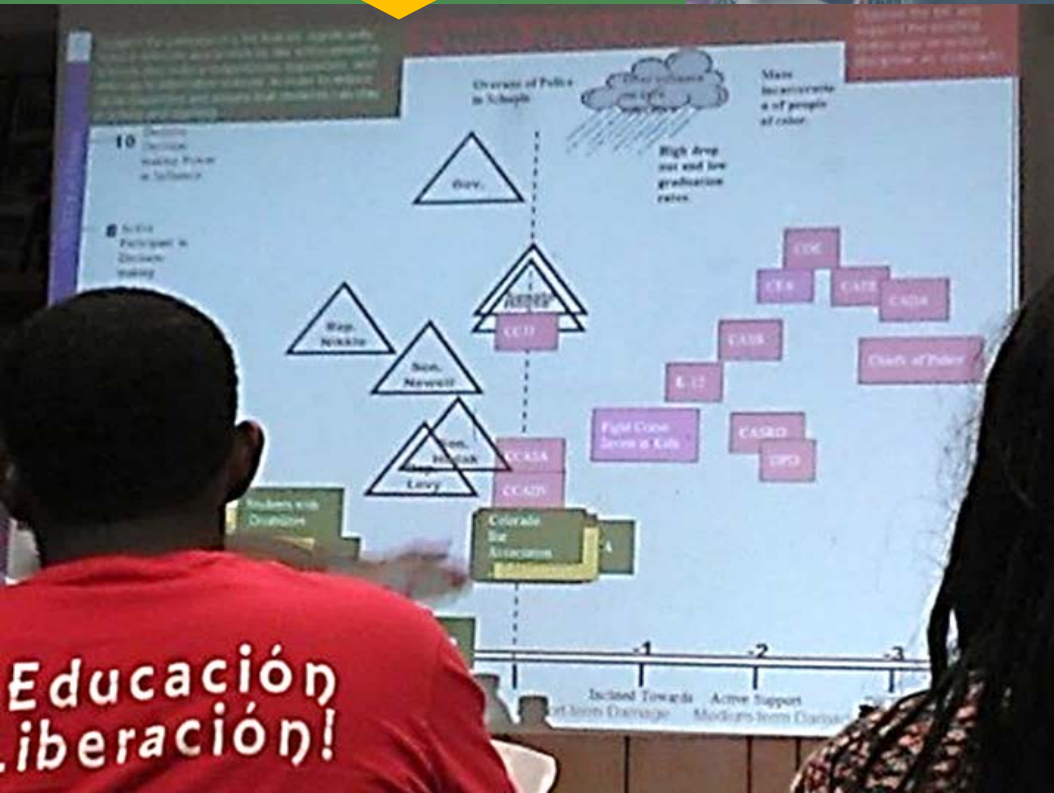


**Community  
Leadership and  
Action**



Community  
Leadership and  
Action

*Agency*



**Social and Emotional Learning**



# “Context”: Youth Organizing Culture

“Youth Organizing Culture” is the web of supportive relationships and sense of belonging that undergirds youth organizing

- Survey Findings: Statistically significant associations between YOC the outcome variables of interest.
- Corroborated by fieldwork findings.



## Finding your voice, making your case: What to say and how to say it



...Channeling difficult emotions along the way

1. Doing the research necessary to make your point
2. Rehearsing/Role-playing a meeting with school officials or police. Working on public speaking.
3. Performance: engaging powerful people and participating in public events that bring attention to your concerns
4. Reflecting on your actions, taking and giving feedback and support.

# FIN



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# Common Practices & Learning Modes



**Direct Action/  
Application**

**Arts/Media**

**Group  
Discussion**

**Direct Instruction/  
Training**