

Youth Quote Library

Welcome to the *Striving to Thriving* Youth Quote Library. Curated from the [Striving to Thriving](#) research project, here you'll find a collection of more than 5,700 quotes from young people aged 15-22 living in communities across the United States. In the library, you can see: how young people describe their multifaceted identities; how they understand and apply meaning to the language of job, work and career; how they think about and assign value to relationships, networking and connections; how they aspire to live their lives; and what steps they believe they will take to meet their future goals.



WHO IS THIS FOR?

The library is intended to be a resource for anyone who wants to dive more deeply into the research findings by seeing and engaging with more of the youth quotes than those included in the [Striving to Thriving](#) report. As part of the [Designing Pathways For Youth toolkit](#), the library can also be a tool for program designers, educators, policy makers, and others who are using the research to build their own case for reimagining programs, policies, and systems to be more aligned with young people's experiences. For those who are using the [Build Your Own Presentation](#) tool, the Quote Library can provide additional quotes to support points made within those slides.



NOTES ON CURATION

The library includes oral quotes from in-person focus groups, and written quotes from asynchronous online focus groups. Researchers have lightly edited spoken quotes where necessary, adding punctuation to enable greater readability. Researchers have not edited written quotes. In some cases, the quotes include terminology or slang that may not be familiar to all library users. We encourage you to only use quotes you understand in their entirety. If you find yourself struggling to understand specific terminology or phrasing, you may also consider asking a young person in your life to vet your own interpretation of the quote.



CATEGORIES

The quote categories and subcategories highlight particular areas of inquiry from the research. These categories largely follow the sequence and design of the focus group conversations. A sample from the focus group guide, as well as a full description of the research methodology can be found in the [Striving to Thriving full report](#). (Full research methodology begins on page 152.)



FILTERS

Race

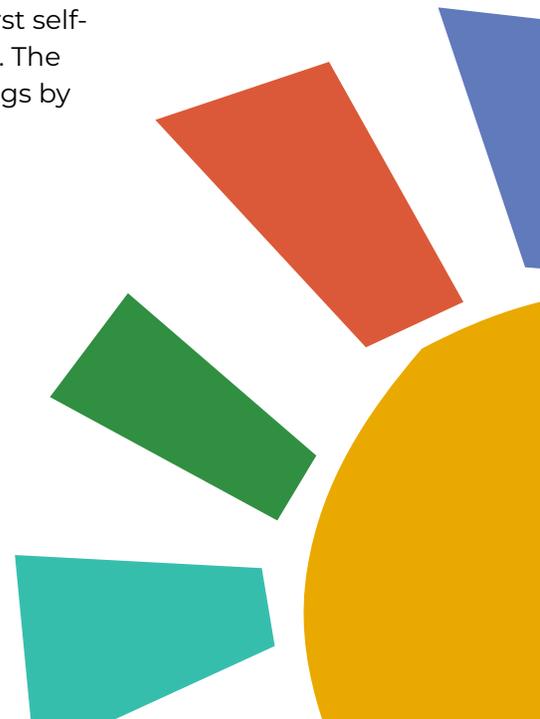
The terms used in the *Striving to Thriving* research to describe people's race and ethnicity reflect the terms young people most often used to describe themselves in interviews and focus groups. For example, young people who self-selected to participate in the Black focus groups most commonly described themselves as Black; young people who self-selected to participate in the Hispanic focus groups most commonly described themselves as Hispanic; and young people who self-selected to participate in the white focus groups most commonly described themselves as white. This is not to say that young people did not also describe themselves in other terms, but rather that the most frequent words used to describe their race or background were Black, Hispanic and white, respectively.

Gender

During the interview and focus group recruitment processes, young people, and their parents or guardians if they were minors, selected either male or female gender and were assigned to focus group discussions based on that selection. In some focus group discussions, individual young people who had selected male or female during participant recruitment and screening also described their gender identity as transgender, gender non-conforming, and/or non-binary. For the purposes of the *Striving to Thriving* research, these individuals are included in observations and insights about the gender group they first self-selected and to which they were assigned: male or female. The sample size was not large enough to report specific findings by gender identity or sexual orientation.

Age

Library users can filter search results to include quotes from young people aged 15-22 and quotes from young adults aged 26-29. *Striving to Thriving* research focused on young people aged 15-21 and the majority of youth research participants were in this age group. Two focus groups, held during the second phase of the research, included



young people aged 17-22. Participants in these groups were recruited by a partner organization to engage in discussions that explicitly explored social capital. Researchers also conducted three focus groups with young adults, aged 26-29, who self-identified as being middle-or higher-income adults who had also grown up in families with lower incomes.

Income

The *Striving to Thriving* research defines income in the following ways:

- Lower-Income: Young people, or their parents or guardians, who reported their household income as \$75,000 per year or lower.
- Higher-Income: Young people, or their parents or guardians, who reported their income as \$75,000 per year or higher.
- Mixed-Income: Participants in focus groups made up of people from a mix of income backgrounds. For example, young people whose focus group included **both** lower-income and higher-income individuals are labeled mixed-income for the purposes of this research. This designation also applies to 26- to 29-year-olds who self-reported as either middle- or higher-income.
- Unknown: Participants in two focus groups were recruited by a partner organization. No income information was collected for these participants.

For more information about Striving to Thriving, please visit the [Striving To Thriving](#) page on the [Equitable Futures website](#).



To share feedback on this tool or others in the [Designing Pathways for Young People Toolkit](#), please reach out to us: contact@equitablefutures.org.