

Engaging with students as partners within e-Portfolio processes.

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sparqs (Student Partnerships in Quality Scotland) was created in 2003 and is funded by the Scottish Funding Council.

Work with:

- All colleges and HE institutions throughout Scotland.
- Students' Associations.
- Individual students.
- Other sector agencies.



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Student Engagement



- “students understand how they can influence their learning, and that they feel they are supported in this process” – *Colleges Scotland*
- “students actively participating in learning in ways which help them to achieve their full potential, and playing a full part in college life, including activities like student representation” – *Scottish Funding Council*
- “always ensure that the diversity of student voices is heard” – *sparqs*



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Students' Associations Objectives

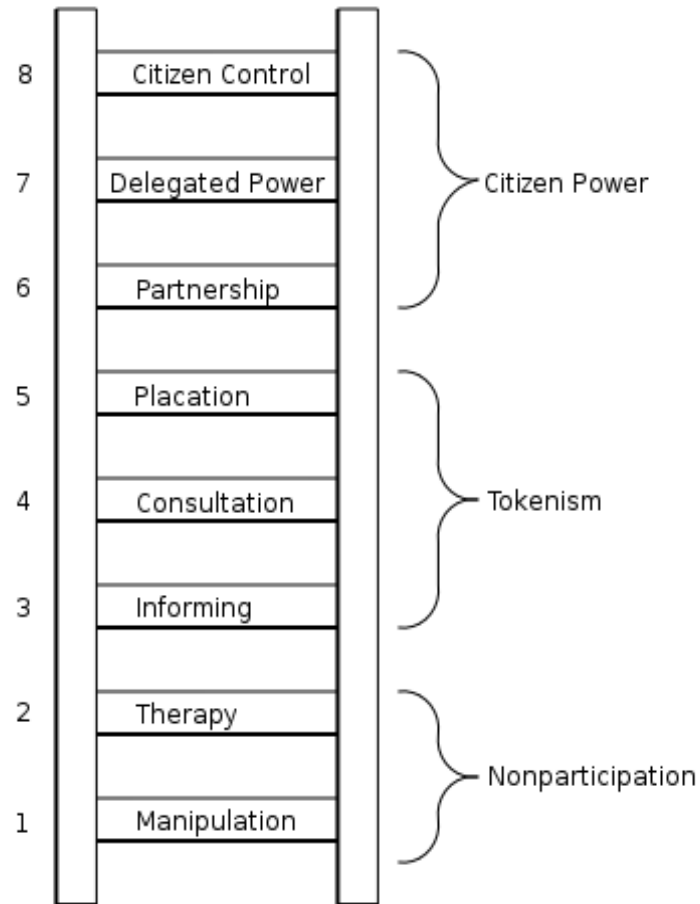


- All Students feel part of a supportive institution
- All Students are engaged in their own learning
- Students work with the College in shaping the direction of learning
- Develop formal mechanisms for quality and governance



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Arnstein's Ladder of Participation



A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are six features of effective student engagement:

1. A culture of engagement.
2. Students as partners.
3. Responding to diversity.
4. Valuing the student contribution.
5. Focus on enhancement and change.
6. Appropriate resources and support.



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A Student Engagement Framework for Scotland

There are five key elements:

1. Students feeling part of a supportive institution.
2. Students engaging in their own learning.
3. Students working with their institution in shaping the direction of learning.
4. Formal mechanisms for quality and governance.
5. Influencing the student experience at national level.

The use of the term 'learning' throughout the framework can apply to learning, teaching and assessment.



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Student Engagement Framework



Partnership is a key concept – students have an equal role in shaping their experience which when fully realised goes beyond feedback, problem solving and membership of committees, to opportunities for real enhancement.



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E-portfolio redesign



- How can we involve students?
- To what extent are students 'experts' in their own learning?



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Challenges

- Asking the right questions, at the right times
- Making technical language make sense, and preventing data losing context
- Turning information into action



Case Study: Forth Valley College



Making Learning Work



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Method

- Focus Groups
- Student-led redesign
- Engagement with the Students' Association



Outcomes



- 3 Class Rep 'first responders'
- 3 'student teachers'
- Students at the forefront of design and development



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