especially in their struggles with other teens. There is an innate knowing that grows within all people and there is a difference between experience and intelligence. Don't talk too much. If you are working in a setting with teens, get feedback from them. Ask them to give you some feedback about how you approach them. This will be an amazing growth experience for you.

6. Allow teenagers to experience their discouragement
Give young people room to express their doubts. Listen to them with absolute delight. Often our struggle in working with teens is that we want them to feel successful. When we hear discouragement from them, we try telling them how to be more successful. This experience allows us to be dominant over them and holds them back from feeling the experience of life.

7. Give up control without giving up your best thinking
Take charge of the situation by making things go well; organizing yourself, the meeting and the structure. At the same time, be willing to let go, don't take over, and let the decision-making of the teens be the most important thing that you achieve.

It is also important that you not withdraw from teens. If you see a young person being harmful to her/himself or to other people and they are in need of some positive direction, definitely step in, firmly, quietly, and openly. Be a real force in his/her life. All of us need people to step in at different times in our lives to be helpful and give directions when we can't think clearly.

8. Encourage teen empowerment
Encourage teens to take power in every situation. We can help them do this by supplying them with confidence, affirmation, and "cheerleading". While assisting teens in difficult situations, maintain an air of confidence that a young person can follow. Don't set up for failure. Help young people match themselves to pieces of the project or situation that they are ready for. This will give them a small growing edge. Young people will tend to take larger risks and get stuck. Be ready to help them. You will generally see some people taking huge risks and others being too scared to take any risks at all. Gently push them to act on their strength.

9. Be aware of the stereotyping of teens
Not all teenagers are the same. Be careful of dismissing young people's thoughts because they don't sound intelligent or grammatically proper. The way that young people verbalize does not necessarily represent their intelligence or their ability to sort out what it is that they need.