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An Exploration of Benefits for Youth Mentors in an Indigenous High School Peer Mentoring Program

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Agenda

- Context
- Research Focus
- Methodology
- Findings
- Discussion
- Recommendations

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Engaging Indigenous Youth with Education, through Education

cc: Pixabay

Context

- Historical Context of Colonization
- Preserving Indigenous Culture
 - Culturally relevant programming
 - School-based peer mentoring programs
 - Gap in literature: benefits for youth mentors
- Fourth R: Uniting Our Nations Program



cc: Crystalinks

Research Focus

Research Goals:

- Highlight the youth mentor voice
- Understand the benefits of mentoring younger peers
- Inform future programming


Research Question:

What are the perceived benefits of peer mentoring for youth mentors?



cc: Dissolve

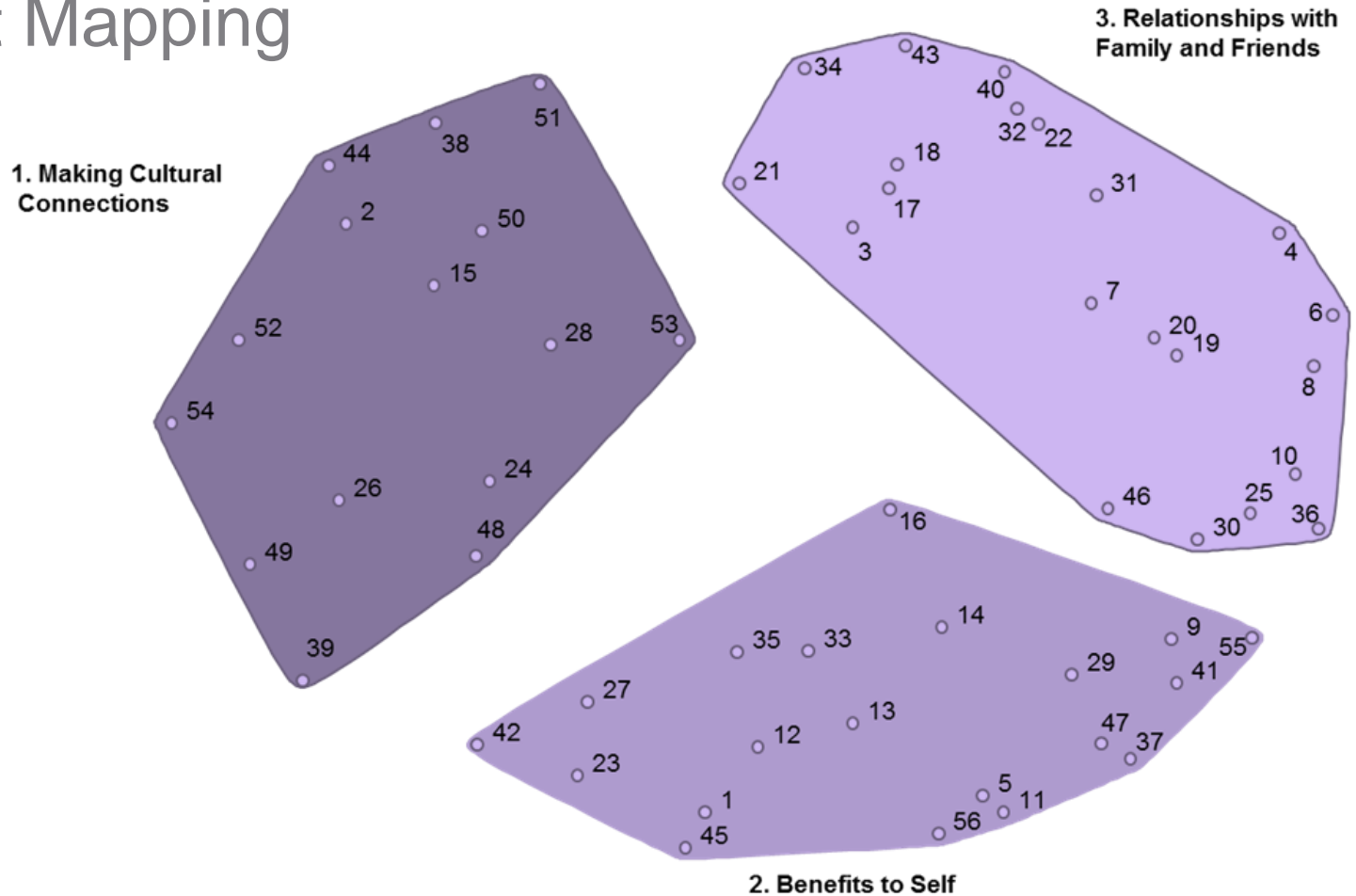
Methodology

- 11 interview participants, 10 statement sorting/rating participants
- All participants 16-18 years old, from two TVDSB secondary schools
- All participants served as peer mentors
- Interviews 

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graph LR; Interviews --> ConceptMapping[Concept mapping]; Interviews --> ThematicAnalysis[Thematic analysis];
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- Ethical considerations

Findings

Concept Mapping



Concept map for the 3-cluster solution showing spatial relationship between 56 generated statements.

Findings

Thematic Analysis

1. Contributions

- Personal, School, Community, Family

2. Relationships

- Peer, Family, Fourth R Staff, Other Adults

3. Culture

- Practices/Teachings, Identity, Togetherness

4. Aspirations

- Personal, Professional, Academic

cc: Pixabay

Discussion

- Benefits of complementary methods
- Parallels to previous research with mentees
- Meeting program goals
 - Leadership opportunities
 - Connection to culture
 - Participation in education
 - Positive relationships
- Non-Indigenous Mentors



Recommendations

1. Need for cultural relevance
 - School environment
 - Non-Indigenous allies
2. Follow youth mentors more frequently
 - Two-years of participation key?
 - Alternative forms of data collection



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