Defining Adultism

Consider these examples of adultism created by young people.
What do the examples have in common? What motivates adults to act this way?
In the space at the bottom of the page, create a definition for the word *adultism*.

Example 1: Writing "Tasha, age 17," rather than "Tasha Martin." While it's great to demonstrate that young people are involved, you should be very careful to not be condescending. Adults would never write "Jim, age 54," in a professional setting.

Example 2: Considering only age, not experience. Young people's experiences are extremely valuable, even if they are not "traditional" professional experiences.

Example 3: Asking young people, "Do you understand?" in a condescending way. It's great to be thoughtful when someone looks lost, whether an adult or a young person, but be careful not to put young people on the spot.

Example 4: Assuming young people won't be able to understand a topic or concept, rather than taking the time to explain it to them.

Example 5: Making condescending comments like "You're still a little wet behind the ears!" "When you grow up you'll understand." "It's just a phase; you'll grow out of it."

Example 6: Asking young people to handle only small or menial tasks. As with an adult, these need to be balanced with important and challenging work.

Example 7: Being surprised when young people say something intelligent, when they are dressed appropriately, or when they are well organized. Comments like "You're so smart! I can't believe you're only fifteen!"

Example 8: Assuming that young people only know about issues concerning youth.

Example 9: Talking about young people when they are with you as if they weren't around.

Example 10: Using jargon that is unfamiliar to young people. Help young people learn the language used in your field. In the meantime remember to phrase things so everyone can understand.

Your definition of *adultism*:_____

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