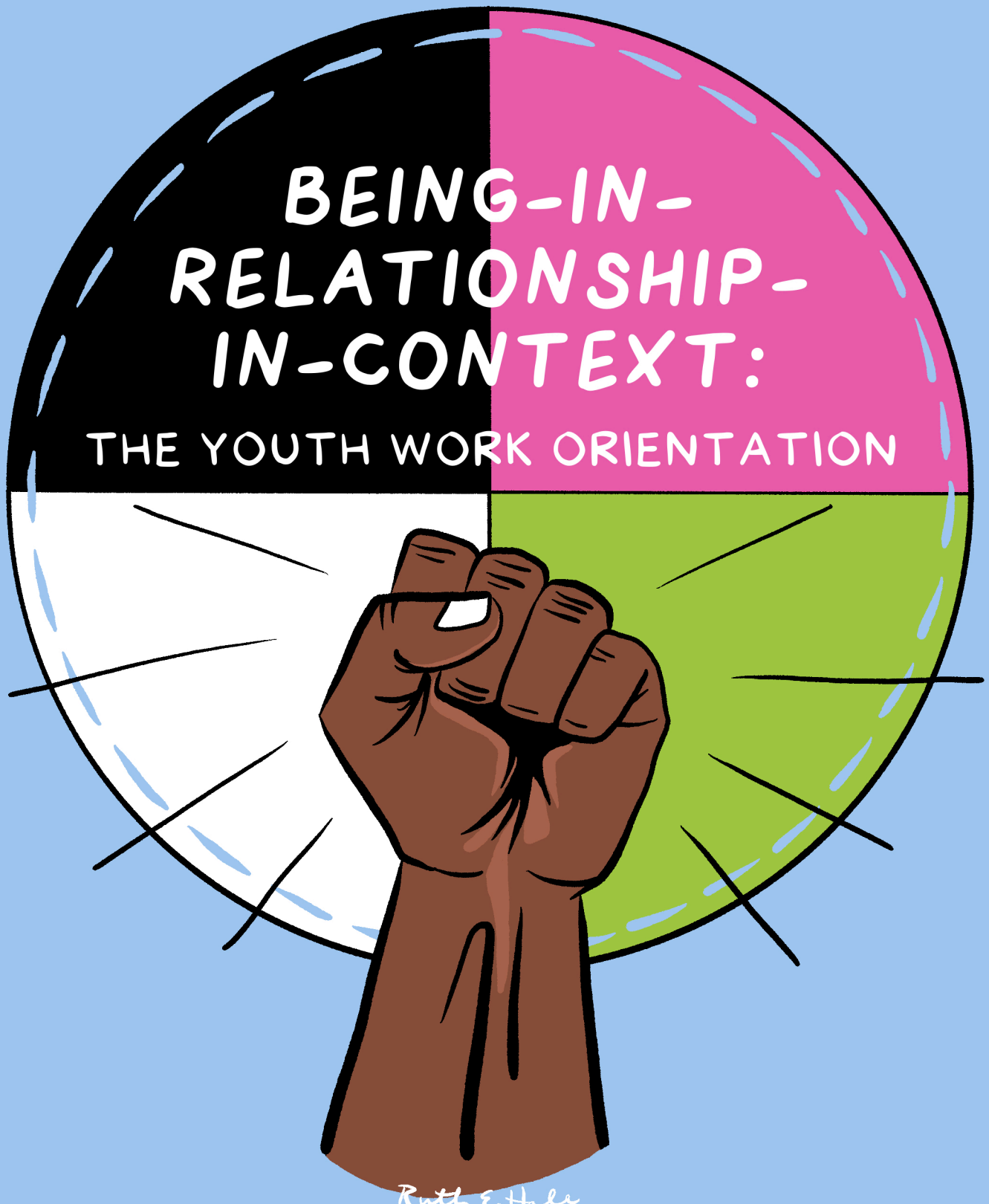
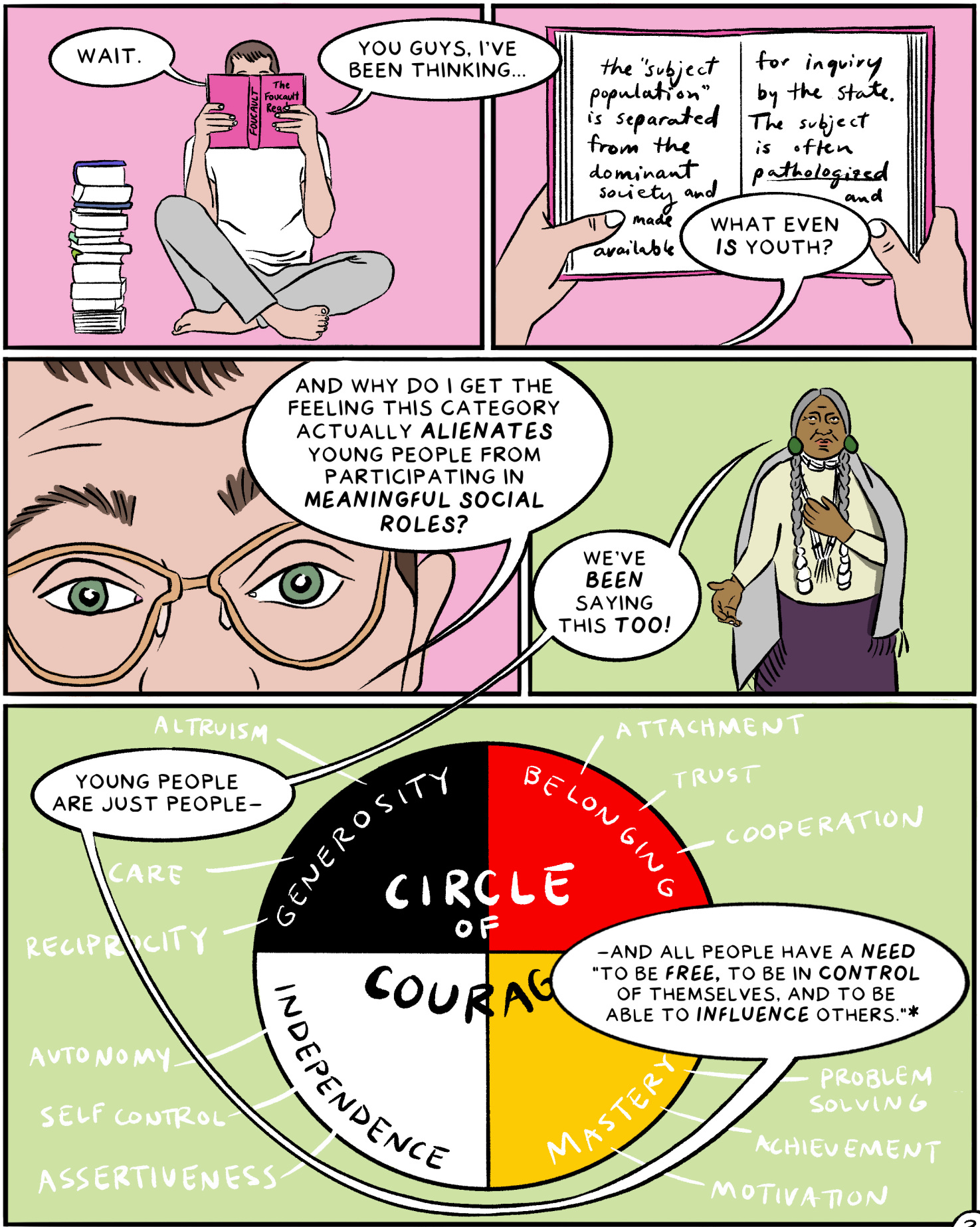
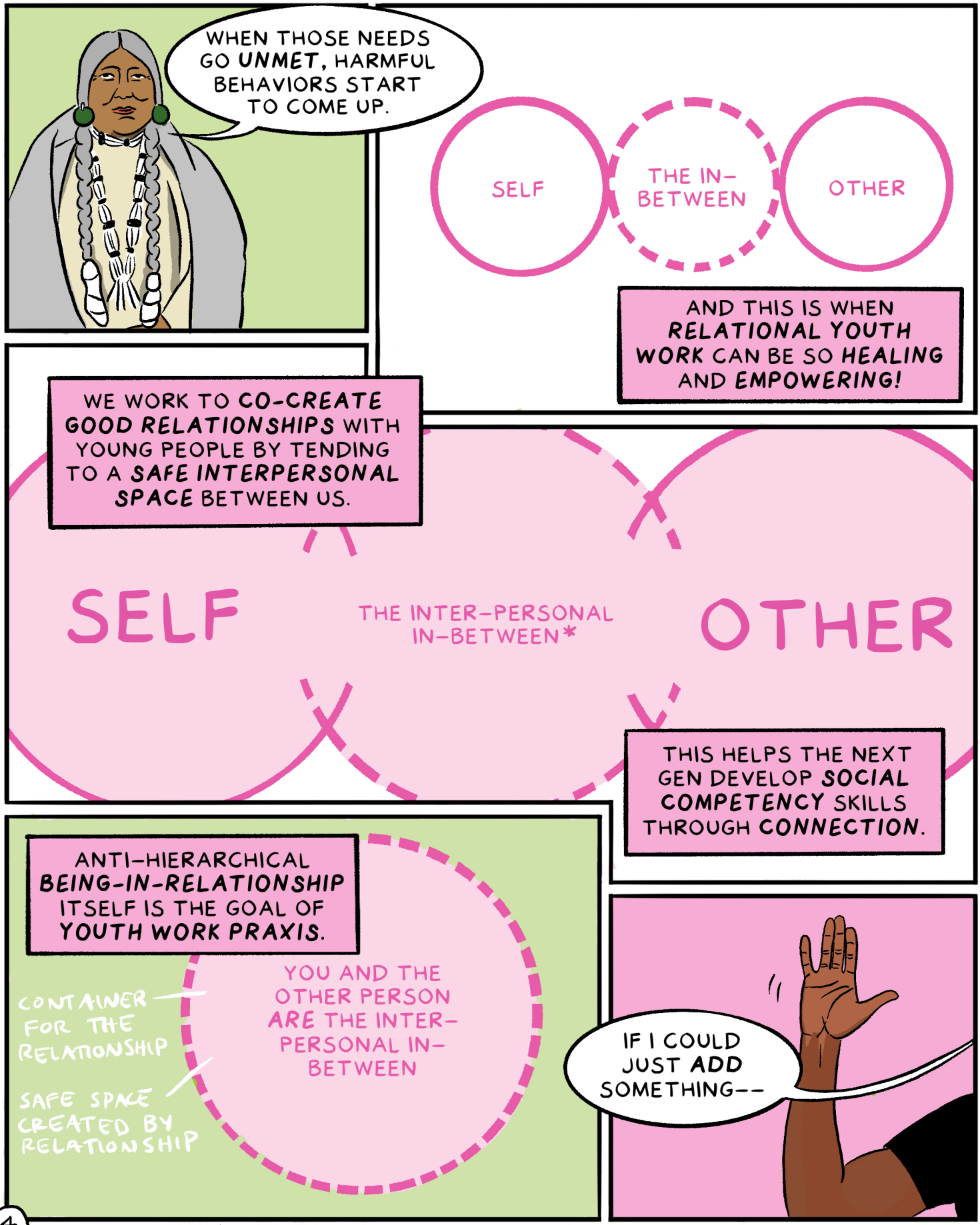
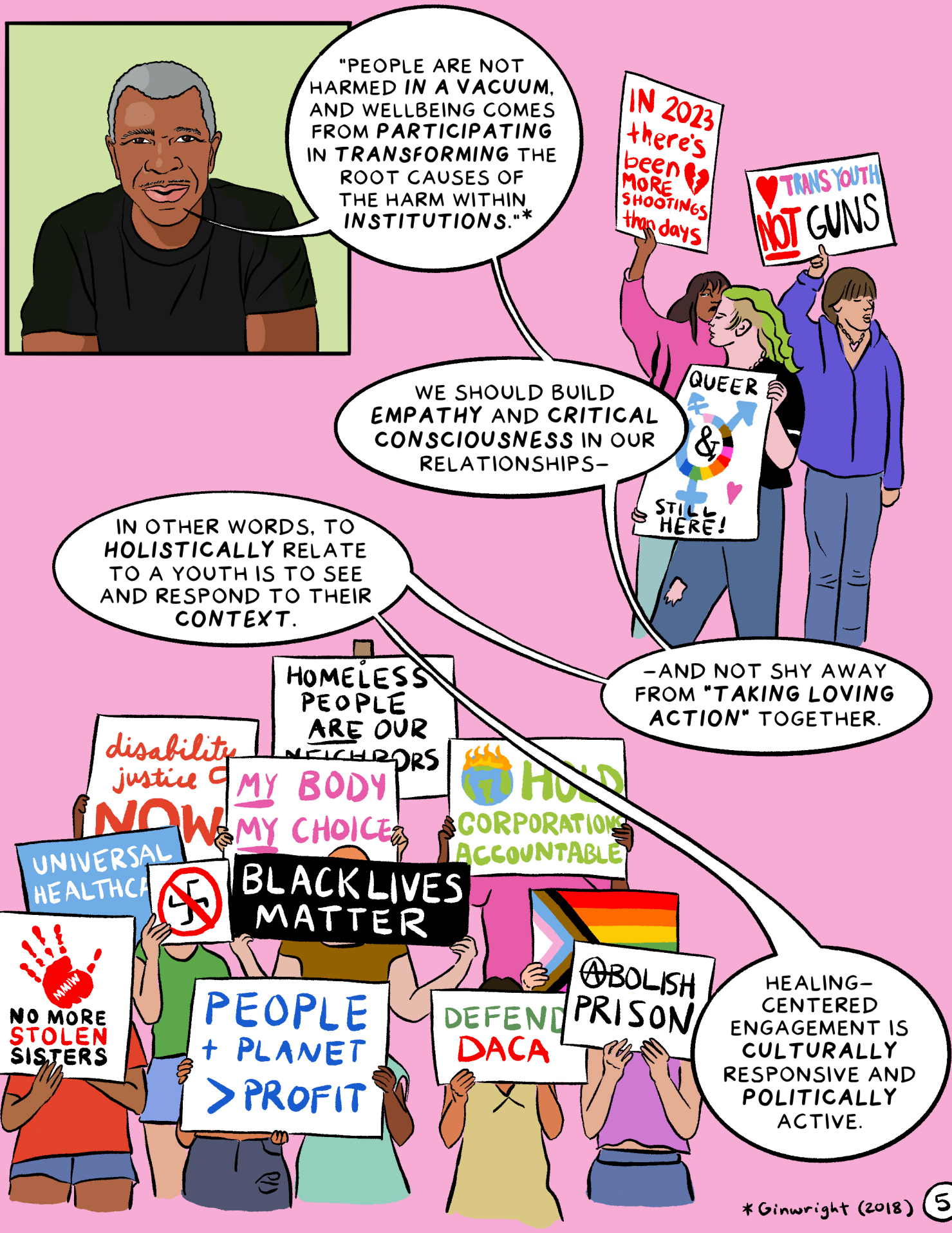

BEING-IN-RELATIONSHIP-IN-CONTEXT:
THE YOUTH WORK ORIENTATION
Ruth E. Hall

TAP TAP TAP
WE TREAT THE YOUTH?
HOW SHOULD WE TREAT THE YOUTH?
LIKE THE TROUBLEMAKERS THEY ARE--WITH A FIRM HAND!
NOT YOU, DEAR. YOU'RE STILL MARRIAGEABLE.
I THINK IT'S MORE ABOUT–
MAINTAINING GOOD RELATIONSHIPS ACROSS GENERATIONS SO THE YOUNG GROW INTO --
ASSETS FOR OUR BOOMING ECONOMY!!

UM, NO, THAT'S NOT WHAT–
AND IF THE YOUTH DON'T COMPLY, MR. PRESIDENT?
PRISON.
I CAN SEPARATE THE ASSETS FROM THE LIABILITIES WITH STANDARDIZED TESTING–
–AND PRESCRIBE FOR THE ONES WHO CAN'T COPE–
PRINCIPAL
Rx
F23.20 ADJUSTMENT DISORDER
–AND INTERVENE IN DIRE SITUATIONS–
DHS
–AND TEACH THEM TO MANAGE THE TRAUMA––


WAIT.
YOU GUYS, I'VE BEEN THINKING...
The Foucault Reader
FOUCAULT
the "subject population" is separated from the dominant society and made available for inquiry by the state. The subject is often pathologized and
WHAT EVEN IS YOUTH?
AND WHY DO I GET THE FEELING THIS CATEGORY ACTUALLY ALIENATES YOUNG PEOPLE FROM PARTICIPATING IN MEANINGFUL SOCIAL ROLES?
WE'VE BEEN SAYING THIS TOO!
YOUNG PEOPLE ARE JUST PEOPLE–
ALTRUISM
GENEROSITY
CARE
RECIPROCITY
BELONGING
ATTACHMENT
TRUST
COOPERATION
CIRCLE OF COURAGE
INDEPENDENCE
AUTONOMY
SELF CONTROL
ASSERTIVENESS
MASTERY
PROBLEM SOLVING
ACHIEVEMENT
MOTIVATION
–AND ALL PEOPLE HAVE A NEED "TO BE FREE, TO BE IN CONTROL OF THEMSELVES, AND TO BE ABLE TO INFLUENCE OTHERS."*
* Brendtro, et al. (2019)
3


WHEN THOSE NEEDS GO UNMET, HARMFUL BEHAVIORS START TO COME UP.
SELF
THE IN-BETWEEN
OTHER
AND THIS IS WHEN RELATIONAL YOUTH WORK CAN BE SO HEALING AND EMPOWERING!
WE WORK TO CO-CREATE GOOD RELATIONSHIPS WITH YOUNG PEOPLE BY TENDING TO A SAFE INTERPERSONAL SPACE BETWEEN US.
SELF
THE INTER-PERSONAL IN-BETWEEN*
OTHER
THIS HELPS THE NEXT GEN DEVELOP SOCIAL COMPETENCY SKILLS THROUGH CONNECTION.
ANTI-HIERARCHICAL BEING-IN-RELATIONSHIP ITSELF IS THE GOAL OF YOUTH WORK PRAXIS.
CONTAINER FOR THE RELATIONSHIP
SAFE SPACE CREATED BY RELATIONSHIP
YOU AND THE OTHER PERSON ARE THE INTER-PERSONAL IN-BETWEEN
IF I COULD JUST ADD SOMETHING--
4
*Diagrams adapted from Garfat (2012)



*Ginwright (2018)

WHETHER WE'RE IN DROP-IN, STREET OUTREACH, RESIDENTIAL PROGRAMS, DETENTION CENTERS, SCHOOLS, OR ANYWHERE ELSE--
--YOUTH WORKERS ARE CONCERNED WITH BEING-IN-RELATIONSHIP-IN-CONTEXT--
--WHERE AN OPPORTUNITY TO BE TOGETHER IS AN INVITATION TO ALLY TOGETHER.
I'M SO INTO THAT BUT, UM-
-CAN WE NOT INVITE THEM NEXT TIME?

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