

COMMUNITY BRAINSTORM

MATERIALS |

sticky notes and writing
utensils

OBJECTIVES | The objective of this activity is for participants to begin creating a shared vision of what it is to be in community with each other.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Introduce the concept of “community.”

- Ask participants to brainstorm what it means to be a part of a community:
 - What does it mean to be a part of a community?
 - What kinds of communities are you all a part of?
 - What responsibilities do you have if you are a member of a community?
- Some things you might want to say: a community is a group of people who are in relationships of accountability with each other. This may be because they live close to each other, because they are part of the same family (see My Family activity to broaden ideas about “family”), or because you share values, worldviews, or responsibilities. Being in community with others often requires working together, solving problems, navigating conflict, providing support, looking out for each other, taking care of each other, and sharing joy. One of our goals as a class/school is to be in community with each other.

Tell participants they will now have the opportunity to brainstorm what specific attributes, values, they would like to see as part of their community.

Allow participants to individually brainstorm the kind of community they would like their school to be. Ask them to write as many things as they can on different post-it notes and post them around the room. Invite the group to do a gallery walk to read through everyone’s ideas around the room.

Divide participants into groups and give them time to come to consensus about the kind of community they want. Remind them to use their dialogue skills while working together.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What things do our lists have in common? How are they different?
- What do you personally have to do to have the kind of community you want? Is there anything you need to do differently than you have before?



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/creating-community-norms/>

NOTES |

This activity can be done alongside the Community Vision Board.

EXTENSION: Participants can use markers, dot stickers, or sticky notes to identify the things on other people’s lists that they agree with.