

# EXPERTS

## MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensils

OPTIONAL: item to share

**OBJECTIVES |** The objectives of this activity are to recognize all the many ways people are smart, knowledgeable, and capable beyond what is often recognized in traditional academic or school measures and to continue leaning more about each other.

## FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Tell each person to think of something they feel confident they know a lot about or are good at. It could be something very complicated or something simple. It could be something that they do at school, at home, or in some other place. For example, they might be an expert at making peanut butter and jelly sandwiches, or doing their little sister's hair, in dinosaurs, Lego building, playing video games, finding the best prices when they're shopping, climbing, etc.

Ask each person to pick one thing they are an expert in and answer the following questions:

- What are you an expert in?
- How did you become an expert in this? (Did someone teach you? Did you practice on your own? etc)
- What is one tip you have for us about how to do this well or one fact you can share about the topic you are an expert in?

After participants have answers for themselves, invite them all to sit in a circle and allow each person to share their answers.

## DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What did you learn about yourself?
- What did you learn about your classmates?
- What are the many different ways in which we learn and become good at things?



## SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/goals-and-aspirations/>

## NOTES |

**EXTENSIONS:** Invite participants to share an artifact (picture, short clip, book, etc.) or demonstration of their area of expertise. This may require doing this activity over two days so that they can bring something from home.

Talk to students about the various ways people learn: by doing something, by figuring it on their own, by reading independently, by talking to an expert, by making mistakes, by taking a class, etc.