

# EDUCATION LIFE MAPS

## MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensils

**OBJECTIVES |** The objectives of this activity are for participants to reflect on their own successes and challenges in learning and for teachers to gain insight into the educational histories of their students.

## FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Ask participants to think of 3-6 significant experiences or events that occurred at different points in their educational history that have shaped how they feel about learning. It may be something that happened within the school, or it could be something that happened outside of school. It may be something that happened that went well or that they are proud of, or something that was hard or upsetting. It could be about grades, about an experience with a classmate, about a fight, about a relationship with a teacher or adult, etc. They should only come up with events they would be willing to share.

Using drawings, words, etc., invite them to draw a map of these events on a timeline indicating the year or grade they were in. Under each event they should answer or be prepared to answer the following questions:

- What was the event?
- Why was it significant to you?
- How did this event make you feel?
- What did you learn when this happened to you?
- How do you feel about learning now as a result of this?

Each person should then share their life-maps with two other people in the room.

## DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- What is one thing you learned about yourself doing this activity or that you would like to share with the group?
- What is one thing you need from your classmates/students to be the best student/teacher you can be this year?



## SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/sharing-who-we-are/>

## NOTES |

**WARNING:** This activity may reveal experiences of discrimination, abuse, or neglect that facilitators should be prepared to address.