

TRADE CARDS

MATERIALS |

note cards or small pieces of paper and writing utensils

OBJECTIVES | The objectives of this activity are for participants to practice asking meaningful questions, learn to consider other people's perspectives and experiences, engage in dialogue, and build relationships with each other.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Ask participants to brainstorm a question they have about their classmates and write their question legibly on a note card. Questions can be about anything so long as they are kind and will not intentionally make others feel bad. Some things to consider:

- Would this question be harder to answer if you had more or less money than others?
- Would this question be harder to answer if you had a different family structure than others?
- Would this question be harder to answer if you had a disability?
- Would it be harder to answer if you had a different kind of housing than others?

Facilitators collect the questions and quickly look through them to make sure they are appropriate and do not perpetuate stereotypes or contain bullying, discriminatory, or inappropriate language. If there is a problematic card, facilitators should replace it with one they have made in advance.

Facilitators shuffle and re-distribute the cards anonymously. Remind participants that if they get their own card they do not have to tell anyone—only they will know.

Participants find a partner. If needed there can be one initial group of three. However, as the activity goes on students should find just one other person. Participants read their question to their partner and allow their partner to answer. The partner will then read their question and allow the first participant to answer.

Once both participants have answered their respective questions they should trade cards and go find a new person to ask their new question. Repeat the process with your new partner. Continue until time is up.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- How did you decide what question to ask? Did you think about what you would like to answer?
- What things did you have in common with others?
- What things were surprising or different?



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

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

NOTES |

ACCESSIBILITY: This activity requires movement. To accommodate participants with mobility disabilities the activity can be done with some participants remaining seated.

It is okay if the student answers the same question multiple times.

Some pairs will talk longer than others so they may be at different stages in the process at any given time. This is fine.