

COMMUNITY NORMS

MATERIALS |

post-it notes, or flip chart, markers

OBJECTIVES | The objective of this activity is to develop agreed upon community norms.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Divide participants into groups of 3 or 4. Instruct them to think about what the classroom rules/norms should be for the year based on the brainstorming and visioning they have done and based on what they have found to be important in previous years:

- What norms do you need to be your best student?
- What norms do we need to make sure everyone is safe?
- What norms do we need to make sure everyone has an opportunity to learn and participate?
- What norms do we need to make sure the class runs smoothly?
- What norms do we need to achieve our visions that we developed earlier?

Invite each group to come up with as many norms as they can think of and then write them on on post-its that can be put on the wall.

After everyone has put their ideas up around the room work together to regroup them so that similar or common ideas are located near each other.

Work as a group to re-write the common ideas in language everyone can agree to. This is the time to condense overlapping ideas or get rid of those that are repetitive.

After you have a draft final list, share it with participants in a way that they can see (on a blackboard or projector) and ask if people feel there should be any additions or deletions and why. If there is disagreement send students back to their groups to discuss. Each group can then make its case for why to keep (or remove) the norm. As a large group vote on whether or not it should stay or if it needs to be removed/revised.

Display the final list of norms on the board for everyone to see and ask everyone to raise their hand if they are willing to agree to the final version. For subsequent classes ask participants to compare the list they came up with to the list in the new classroom. Ask students to share things that are common/different about this list and the list they created in their last class. Are there any things on this list that they would change or revise? Are there things that they would want to add? Teachers should keep track of each class's specific lists—or alternatively work with students to come to one that all classes agree on.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did I feel to do this activity? Was it difficult? Easy?
- How do you feel about having say in what our norms will be?
- How will we hold each other accountable for keeping up with our norms?

NOTES |

If your school is using already established norms this is a good opportunity for students to think very specifically about what these rules/norms means. If it is not possible to change the school or classroom rules, invite participants to brainstorm concrete examples that respond to already established categories.

Facilitators should make sure to participate in this activity so that their ideas are also considered and discussed.



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

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