

ACTIVITY 30

What Is Community?

Purpose: Explore the factors that make up a community and create a working definition of community.

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Prepare for Four Corners

This activity uses the **Four Corners** strategy, which you can learn about at facinghistory.org/advisory-media. Before the meeting, label the four corners of the room with signs reading "Strongly Agree," "Agree," "Disagree," and "Strongly Disagree."

2. Revisit Exit Cards in Future Meetings

You will have the option to use this activity's final **exit cards** as an opening for Activity 31: What Makes a Community Strong? If you plan to do so, make sure to collect the exit cards at the end of this meeting. Visit facinghistory.org/advisory-media to learn about the Exit Cards teaching strategy.

APPROXIMATE TIME:

45 minutes

MATERIALS:

HANDOUT
What Is Community?
Anticipation Guide

Index cards or slips
of paper

PROCEDURE:

1. Reflect in Journals on the Idea of Community

- Let advisees know that in this section of *Community Matters*, they will be exploring the topic of community.
- In a quick journal response, ask advisees to respond to the following prompt:
What is an example of a community that you belong to? What makes you feel a part of that community?
- Ask advisees to share their ideas in pairs or triads.

2. Discuss What a Community Is and Is Not

- Pass out the handout **What Is Community? Anticipation Guide** and ask advisees to work individually to respond to each statement.
- Then explain the **Four Corners** strategy and choose a few of the prompts from the anticipation guide to discuss. You might begin by asking advisees which prompts they feel passionate about discussing together.

3. Define *Community* on Exit Cards

- Pass out one index card (or slip of paper) to each advisee and ask them to finish two sentence starters as an **exit card**. Let them know that you will be sharing some of their ideas in the next meeting, but you will not be identifying the authors by name.
 - A strong community is . . .
 - One question that I have about *community* is . . .
- Collect the exit cards as advisees leave the room.



What Is Community?

Anticipation Guide

Directions: Read the statement in the left column. Decide if you strongly agree (SA), agree (A), disagree (D), or strongly disagree (SD) with the statement. Circle your response.

| Statement | Your opinion | | | |
|--|--------------|---|---|----|
| 1. Communities are a kind of group. But not all groups are communities. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 2. Communities are groups of people who come together for a common purpose—to achieve certain goals and/or to share similar interests. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 3. Communities are made up of people who are more or less the same. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 4. Communities have certain rules for membership; not just anyone can belong. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 5. It is unfair for a community to exclude someone from membership. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 6. People who occupy the same space, such as the same neighborhood or school, all belong to the same community. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 7. For a community to be strong, all members must like each other. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 8. For a community to be strong, all members must respect each other. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 9. All people want to belong to a community. | SA | A | D | SD |
| 10. Our advisory is a community. | SA | A | D | SD |