

Advisory Jigsaw Puzzle

Purpose: Discuss contributions each individual can make to the advisory community and how the advisory group can support each other.

APPROXIMATE TIME:
45 minutes

MATERIALS:
Chart paper cut into jigsaw pieces
Markers, pens, colored paper, and clear tape

ADVISOR NOTES:

1. Prepare the Jigsaw Puzzle Pieces

Before the advisory meeting, cut a piece of chart paper into puzzle-shaped pieces so there is one piece for each advisee in the group. You should also cut a piece for yourself to model. Cut the pieces in such a way that they are unique shapes and will fit together like a puzzle when reassembled during the activity (i.e., don't make them all squares). *Because your advisees will reassemble the pieces during the meeting, it is important that after cutting, you reassemble the puzzle and mark the top side of each piece with a small X.* That way, when your advisees put the puzzle together, they all have their individual pieces oriented correctly.

2. Adapt the Activity for a Large Advisory Group

For large advisory groups, you might need two pieces of chart paper.

PROCEDURE:

1. Reflect on Your Contribution to the Advisory

Start by asking advisees to reflect on the following questions in their journals. Let them know that they will be sharing their responses with the group.

- What do you share in common with one or more of your peers in our advisory?
- What about you is unique?
- What can you bring to our advisory that will help make it a strong community this year?
- How can the group help you this year?

2. Create Puzzle Pieces

- Then pass out one puzzle piece to each advisee, as well as the markers, pens, and colored pencils.
- If you made your own puzzle piece, use it to help model the following instructions. Tell advisees that the side of their piece with the small X is the top. On it, they should write their name, what makes them unique, and what they can bring to

the advisory that will help make it strong. On the back, they should write how the group can help them this year. Advisees might want to get creative by outlining their pieces with marker or by including some artwork.

3. Share by Assembling the Puzzle

- Sit in a circle around a table or on the floor. Have one advisee share what they wrote on both sides of their puzzle piece. Then have them place the piece on the table or floor. Others can ask questions to learn more about their peer. Then someone who thinks their piece might fit with the first one should volunteer to go next until the group has assembled the puzzle.
- Tape the pieces together and, if you have space, hang it on the wall after the meeting alongside your advisory contract.
- Reflect on the activity in a closing circle discussion:
 - What did you learn about each other today that you didn't already know?
 - In what ways does the puzzle represent our advisory community?