

# Understanding Community

## Final Reflection

**Purpose:** Review the overarching themes, journal responses, and discussions from this section of *Community Matters* and reflect on new understanding and lingering questions.

**APPROXIMATE TIME:**  
30 minutes

**MATERIALS:** NONE

### ADVISOR NOTES:

#### 1. Set Aside Time and Space for Reflection

Advisees will repeat this activity at the end of each section of *Community Matters*. Providing them with the time and space to reflect on their learning, growth, and lingering questions about the central themes from the section allows them to synthesize the material in meaningful ways before being introduced to new themes and concepts.

#### 2. Choose a Discussion Format

Before the advisory meeting, decide—or invite your advisees to help you decide—how you would like the group to engage in the final discussion. You might start with small groups and then move into a larger circle, or you might try the **Socratic Seminar** or **Fishbowl** teaching strategy. Visit [facinghistory.org/advisory-media](https://facinghistory.org/advisory-media) to learn about these teaching strategies.

### PROCEDURE

#### 1. Reflect on the Idea of Community

Tell advisees that for this reflection, they will need their journals and materials from the section. Advisees will first review their journals, handouts, and writing from this section of the advisory program and then respond to the following prompts.

- Place a star by two or three places where you arrived at a new insight or understanding of community, the factors that can strengthen or weaken communities, or another idea about community.
- Place a question mark by one or two places that raise questions for you about community or where you made note of something that you feel like you need to keep exploring in order to understand community more fully.
- Then ask advisees to spend some time writing a new journal entry in which they elaborate on a new understanding or a lingering question. If you feel like they would benefit from some structure, invite them to respond to one of the following

questions. Let them know that they will be discussing their ideas with the advisory group.

- What new insights and understanding do you have about the theme of community? What questions do you still have?
- I used to think \_\_\_\_\_ about community, but now I think \_\_\_\_\_.

## **2. Reflect on Advisees' Understanding of Community in a Group Discussion**

- In small groups and then in a circle or using the **Socratic Seminar** or **Fishbowl** teaching strategy, ask advisees to discuss their journal responses.
- You might record the questions they still have on chart paper to refer to later in the year as they continue to explore community through the lens of membership and belonging, ostracism and bullying, and community participation.