

Community Building

LESSON GOAL

Reflect on and discuss the broad term *community* and begin building community as a class.

ESSENTIAL QUESTION

What is community?

INTEGRATING TECHNOLOGY

ANNOUNCEMENT

- Check Announcements for any information about assignments and due dates

MY PORTFOLIO

- Submit work to My Portfolio.

MY WORKSPACE

- Prepare your assignments in My Workspace.

LESSONS

- Review the lesson.
- Complete assignment.
- Submit assignment.

ASSIGNMENTS

- Use Assignments to submit your artifacts and reflections.

GRADEBOOK

- Check Gradebook for your lesson evaluation.

SCHEDULE

- Check schedule for assignments and due dates.

COMMUNICATE

with your teacher or other students if desired

- Blogger
- Chat Room
- Drop box
- Mailtool

Two class periods

LESSON OVERVIEW

When hearing the word *community*, many definitions might come to mind. You might think of your school community, your neighborhood community, or another community. In this lesson you will reflect on your personal definition of community and then you will share your ideas with the class. You will talk with your classmates about what you hope your classroom community will be like. Then you will establish ground rules for your class.

STUDENT EXPECTATIONS

1. Complete a thoughtful written reflection on your personal definition of community.
2. Participate in discussion on what community is and what kind of community should be established in the classroom.
3. Complete a personal shield that reveals important things about yourself.
4. Present your shield to the class.
5. Reflect on personal understanding of building community.

There are three assignments in this lesson. After a community discussion you will respond to questions about community. Then you will create a shield that represents who you are. You will then share the shield with your classmates as an introduction of yourself. When you are done with this lesson, you will have shared about who you are with your classmates and will learn more about others in the class. Finally, you will reflect on your definition of community.

How You Can Succeed in This Lesson

1. Contribute to discussion to develop a concept of community for the class.
2. Complete reflection activity thoroughly and thoughtfully, demonstrating understanding of community.
3. Take time to draw neat and colorful pictures and symbols on the shield. Make sure the shield is easy to read and understand.
4. Demonstrate thoughtfulness in choosing the pictures for the shield. Make sure ideas represented are appropriate, interesting, and authentic.
5. Present the shield confidently, with appropriate volume, having good eye contact.
6. Thoughtfully reflect on how your personal definition of community has changed and identify how community can be built within a group of people.

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ASSIGNMENT 1

Respond to the questions on the Reflection on Community handout. Think through all of your experiences within the communities you are a part of. You will discuss your ideas with your classmates.

Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your reflection for evaluation.



ASSIGNMENT 2

Back in the Middle Ages, knights would wear a coat of arms or a shield that distinguished them from other knights. Because everyone was in armor, it was difficult to identify one soldier from another. This individual shield would help the soldiers recognize one another in battle. Because many people could not read at that time, the shield used pictures to communicate identity. For example, the symbol of a lion represented bravery. The symbol of a swan represented love and grace.

1. Design a shield that represents who you are. The four categories for your shield are

Strength Hope Love Goal

Choose appropriate symbols for each category. Draw a picture or symbol to represent each category.

2. In the middle of the shield, draw a symbol that represents who you are.

You can disclose as much or as little as you want through this exercise. This is not the time to tell your whole life story, but it is appropriate to share some things about yourself that nobody else knows in this classroom. Be thoughtful and careful when creating the shield. Take your time and make sure it accurately represents who you are.

3. After you finish drawing and coloring your shield, you will present it to the class. Your presentation should take 2 to 3 minutes. Speak loudly and clearly and make eye contact with the audience. When other students are presenting, write down a question for each student to learn more about him or her.

Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your shield for evaluation.

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ASSIGNMENT 3

In class you have discussed what makes a community, debated what you want your classroom community to be like, created a shield that represents who you are, and shared your shield with your classmates. Now reflect on the following questions:

1. How has your definition of community deepened or changed?
2. What do you hope this classroom community will be like?
3. What was difficult about sharing your shield with the class?
4. What did you have in common with your classmates? What was different?
5. What did you learn about your classmates?
6. Why is it important to share who you are with your classmates? Is this a necessary step to build community in your classroom? Why or why not?

Use the *Sakai* Assignments Tool to submit your reflection for evaluation.

Reflection:

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Multiply the points by the weighted score and record in the total column for each rubric. Then tally the total points for the final score.

Weighted Score	Category	Exceeding 9-10 Points	Meeting 6-8 Points	Approaching 3-5 Points	Emerging 0-2 Points	Total
2	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNMENT 1 Reflection on Community Complete the reflection on communities.	Completed activity thoroughly and thoughtfully demonstrating understanding of community.	Completed activity demonstrating some understanding of community.	Partially completed activity.	Did not complete the activity.	
4	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNMENT 2 Shield Create a neat and colorful personal shield.	Took time to draw neat and colorful pictures and symbols on the shield that are appropriate, interesting, and authentic. Shield is easy to read and understand.	Completed shield but more authentic examples could have been used.	Took some time to draw and color pictures and symbols but choices seem somewhat shallow. Shield illustration looks hurried.	Put little effort into creating the shield and did not disclose anything meaningful.	
1	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ASSIGNMENT 3 Reflection Demonstrate understanding community in a written reflection.	Thoughtfully reflected on how personal definition of community has changed and identified how community can be built within a group of people.	Completed reflection and demonstrated understanding of how community is built.	Made an attempt to complete the reflection that demonstrated understanding of the definition of community and how community is built.	Did not complete reflection about the definition of community and how community is built.	