

## COMMUNITY MIND MAP EXERCISE

### OVERVIEW

This experiential activity is designed to provide participants with an understanding of the perceptions of their personal community and the importance and roles of different elements of community in their work.

### OBJECTIVES

- To share participants' personal pictures of the community
- To identify common elements and role of community
- To identify ways in which connections between youth and adults can positively affect the community
- To target specific sectors of the community for the work

### TIME REQUIRED

Approximately 1.5 hours

WHAT	TIME	CONTENT	MATERIALS
<b>Step 1: Lecturette</b>	5 min.	Welcome, session overview, and objectives	Flip chart with session overview and objectives
<b>Step 2: Mind mapping</b>	10 min.	<p>Set the stage by asking for examples of communities; explain that a mind map is a visual way to identify thoughts, feelings, concepts and “other” things.</p> <p>Say to the group, “When you think of your community, what is the first word you think of? When you think of the community, you might think of things like your family, places you go, and things that are special to you. Draw a picture that captures all of these things in your mind. You will have about 10 minutes to draw, and we will be sharing our maps.”</p> <p>Participants then draw a mind map representing the “close-in” or personal communities to which they belong.</p>	<p>Legal size paper and markers for each participant</p> <p>Flip chart</p>
<b>Step 3: Sharing</b>	10 min.	Participants briefly share and explain their mind map with group (or in pairs if the group is large).	
<b>Step 4: Discussion and reflection</b>	10 min.	<p>Process the experience. Ask the following questions:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. What pictures jump out?</li> <li>2. What words do you remember?</li> <li>3. What feelings did you see expressed in the maps?</li> <li>4. What did it feel like for you when you made your map?</li> <li>5. Any surprises?</li> <li>6. What common themes were expressed among maps?</li> </ol>	

*continued on page 117*

WHAT	TIME	CONTENT	MATERIALS
		<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>7. What differences emerged?</li> <li>8. What gaps were there? What was left out of our collective maps, if anything?</li> <li>9. Based on our discussion, what insights do we have as a group about the community?</li> <li>10. Reflect on the maps. As community members committed to helping to strengthen the community, what are some things we should keep in mind as we move forward?</li> <li>11. What is the importance of understanding the community of our young people?</li> <li>12. How can we value the community of our young people in our work?</li> <li>13. What parts of the communities must we be sure to work into our plans as we move forward?</li> </ol>	Use a flip chart to record answers from questions 9 and 13
<b>Step 5: Personal reflection</b>	5 min.	<p>Next Steps: how participants can apply learnings from this session to their work.</p> <p>Ask participants to write down a “note to themselves”—one thing they would like to remember from this session and one thing they would like to do as a result of this session.</p>	

### SAMPLE MIND MAPS

