

FOCUS ON THE PAST

Purpose: Develop a mutual picture of our world, values and histories, with a particular focus on community building activities we have experienced in our lives.

1. Alone, think about memorable events that represent to you notable milestones and/or turning points.
2. Use a magic marker to write (or draw) your notes on the timelines on the wall. Some global and pertinent school-related milestones are included on the time line. Feel free to add information to any timeline.

PERSONAL (15 minutes)

Where were you? What were you doing? Why is it significant?

1960-1980 _____

1980's _____

1990's _____

2000 to now _____

FOCUS ON THE PAST

Purpose: Tell the story of the recent past. Establish a context for our shared future.

- Decide on leadership roles for your group.
- Each group views our histories from a different perspective.
- Discuss the timelines and write your summary on flip charts.

GROUP ASSIGNMENTS (15 minutes)

1. Use the Personal timeline to tell a story about the people in this room.
 - What are the implications of your story for the work we are here to do?
2. Use the Global timeline to tell a story about our recent history.
 - What are the implications of your story for the work we are here to do?
3. Use the Local/School timeline to tell a story about the recent past.
 - What are the implications of your story for the work we are here to do?

FOCUS ON THE PRESENT

Trends Affecting Communities and Community Building

Purpose: Create a shared picture of the world we live in and experience the whole together.

Method: The whole group will create a "mind map" of present trends in society - social, economic, educational, technological, environmental - that people believe are shaping how communities are created, the experience of being in community and community service.

Ground rules for mind-mapping:

1. This is a group brainstorm - no evaluation, no censorship.
2. Person who names the issue says where it goes on the map.
3. Opposing trends are okay,
4. Give examples. Speak in terms of WHO and or WHAT (more cell phones is an example of the trend toward increased communication).

Notes:

FOCUS ON THE PRESENT
Stakeholders look at External Trends

Purpose: Examine our present situation in relation to the meeting task.

While you are eating your lunch:

1. Discuss RELATED TRENDS affecting YOUR STAKEHOLDER GROUP and how they impact your sense of community and your ability to create community.
2. Discuss what you are doing now about the situation you describe and note what you are not doing that YOU want to do (rather than what you want others to do).

FOCUS ON THE FUTURE

Mixed groups look at ideal futures

Put yourself into the future. It is 2012. Your future dream for "What's Next" is a reality. The activity or event has already happened once.

1. Visualize the community building project, activity or event you really want as if it exists now.
 - What does it look like?
 - When does it happen?
 - Who participates?

2. Think back to today.
 - What major barriers did you overcome to making it happen?
 - How did you do it?

Your scenarios should be:

- a. Feasible - People can do it.
- b. Desirable - Students would benefit, the sense of community across all Catlin constituencies would improve.
- c. Motivating - You would work to make it happen.

COMMON GROUND ON THE FUTURE

Whole group agrees on values and potential projects/activities/events

Purpose: To discover the common ground desired by the group.

Method

1. Groups take their potential futures and merge them with two other groups (create two larger groups). Merge ideas and create three flip charts:
 - Common ground
 - Potential projects/activities/events
 - Not agreed
2. Whole group merges the output from the two larger groups into a whole group output. Three flip charts:
 - Common ground
 - Potential projects/activities/events
 - Not agreed

COMMON GROUND - (WHAT - Values & principles)

POTENTIAL PROJECTS/ACTIVITIES/EVENTS - (HOW)