Building Team Identity

In Task 1-1 and Task 1-4, you mapped what you know about mosquitoes. This is your personal identity when it comes to mosquitoes. As a team, you also have a team identity and know things as a group. This is your team's identity. Each person might have similarities and differences between their personal and team identities. This is okay and normal. It is important to understand how these similarities and differences between your personal and team identities may affect the decisions you or the team make during your research.

Objective

In this task, we will share our work from Tasks 1-1 and 1-4 to help build a team identity map. This map can then be used during your research to see if any part of your identities may be affecting your personal or team decisions.

1. Go to the Task 1-5 folder to get the Building Team Identity instructions, examples, and questions.
2. Follow the instructions to play Round One- Team Identity.
3. Look at the Team Identity example in the Task 1-5 folder for guidance during both rounds.
4. As a team, discuss the Round One Discussion Questions.
5. Follow the instructions to play Round Two- Team Mosquito Knowledge.
6. After everyone has shared, stand up as a team. Continue to hold onto the string.
7. As a team, discuss the Round Two Discussion Questions.
8. Talk about the goal of creating an identity map as a team to help build relationships and break down stereotypes, before we begin our research.
9. Talk about how identity maps are helpful for having discussions and for effective team community-building.
10. Why is it important to let everyone share their ideas?

Hooray! You completed Task 1-5. Check it off the task list. Go to Task 1-6!
Task 1-5 Building Team Identity

Materials:
Large ball of yarn, string, rope, or fishing line
Paper
Pen, pencil, or marker

- Gather students in a circle sitting on the floor or in chairs.
- Hold a large ball of yarn, string, rope, or fishing line.
- You will play two rounds.

Round One: Team Identity

Remind the team about the following norms:

- Recognize the benefits of listening to a range of different perspectives and viewpoints.
- Be open to new ideas and perspectives that challenge your own.
- Be willing to cooperate with others to change things for the better.
- Use active listening skills:
  - Face the person talking.
  - Look them in the eye.
  - Be attentive.

1. The team leader will start by sharing the one thing they circled about their identity from Task 1-2.
2. They will also share why this aspect is more influential than others.
3. Using the round one team identity map example as a guide, the team leader will add this aspect of their identity to the team identity map.
4. Then the team leader will roll the ball of yarn, string, or rope to another team member without letting go of the end of the yarn.
5. The team member who gets the ball of yarn tells his or her name and shares one thing they circled about their identity from Task 1-2.
6. They will also share why this aspect is more influential than others.
7. The team will add this aspect to the team identity map.
8. Then the team member will hold onto the yarn at that spot and roll the ball of yarn, string, or rope to another team member without letting go.
9. Repeat until all members of the team have shared and added one aspect to the team identity map.
10. The team should have created a giant web.
11. Hold on to the string for round two.
Remind the team that you will now engage in a discussion. When engaging in any type of meaningful discussion as a team, we must respect our team. Use these meaningful conversation starters in your discussion to respect your other team members.

- I agree with ___________ because ...
- I disagree with ___________ because ...
- I’d like to go back to what ___________ said about ...
- I’d like to add ______________
- I noticed that ...
- Another example is ...
- So, what you are saying is ...

**Round One Discussion Questions (while holding string)**

1. When one person pulls on the string, do other people feel it?
2. How does the web of string relate to the idea of teamwork?
3. Compare and contrast your personal identity map with the team map.
4. Why is it important to understand the identity of other people on your team?

**Round Two: Team Mosquito Knowledge**

Continue holding onto the string or yarn. Round two follows the same norms as round one, but we will now be focusing on sharing what we know about mosquitoes.

- Start round two by having the team leader share the one thing they circled regarding what they know about mosquitoes from Task 1-4.
- Repeat until all members of the team have shared and added one thing they know about mosquitoes to the team identity map.

**Round Two Discussion Questions**

1. If some team members drop the string, what effect does it have on the strength of the web?
2. Compare and contrast your personal identity map with the team map for the question, “What do you know about mosquitoes?”
3. Why is it important to understand what the entire team knows and thinks about mosquitoes before we start our research?
Task 1-5 Team Identity Map Example

Round One

Round Two

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