



RUTGERS

Graduate School of Education

**CIVICALLY ENGAGED
DISTRICTS PROJECT**



Teachers College

COLUMBIA UNIVERSITY

Building and Sustaining Community

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Why Build Community?

- Encourage students and teachers to talk to/learn from each other. (Yes, participate in the activities with the kids.)
- Develop students' public speaking skills
- Help students find commonalities
- Facilitate new friendships, especially on the first day
- Energize students through movement
- Develop cultural competence
- Build an inclusive environment



How to Build Community

- Do a community building activity each time you meet
- Have students lead the activities as time progresses
- Move from less serious to deeper activities over time
- Plan ahead so your community building activities meet the specific needs of your group and part in the process



Blobs and Lines



Blob: Get with people that
are wearing the same color as
you.



Line: Line up in alphabetical order by your first names.



Blob: Get with people that
have the same pet as you
(cat, dog, fish, reptile, none
etc.)



**Blob: Get with people that
teach similar grade levels**



Line: Line up in chronological order of your birthdays.

Life Map

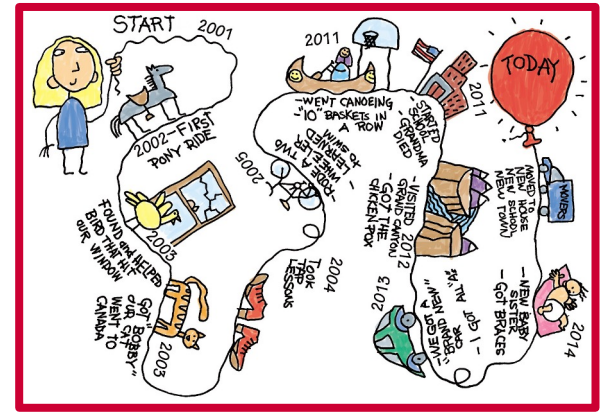
A life map is a visual timeline. It traces key moments in your life from the time you were born until the present day. The events and experiences you draw in your life map should tell everyone who you are and how you got to where we are today!

Having students talk about their life helps to build genuine connections with their peers.

Creating a Life Map and Share Out With Your Group Mates

Your Turn Create your own life map.

1. Start your life map with the day you were born.
2. Record the dates of key moments in your life in time order.
3. Draw each event to help you remember it.
4. End your life map with the present day.



Closing

- Final Thoughts?
- Share your favorite Icebreakers

Lessons: Building and Sustaining Community

Google Drive: Building Community

- Ice Breakers and Community-Building Exercises
- Routines and Decision-Making Lessons
- Values and Visioning Exercise
- Active Listening, Introduction to Active Listening
- Active Listening, Active Listening in Group
Decision Making
- Working as a Team, Team Work