

What Are Our Collective Responsibilities in The Community?

Paulo Freire (1993) calls us to recognize and address oppression within and beyond our educational spaces to transform knowledge into action. Peter Block (2018) calls us to come together as accountable agents in our communities. For both, our communication—what we say, how we say it, and who we say it to—reflects our values and responsibilities. Our best hope for an inclusive, democratic community is to speak with respect to people of differing abilities, races, genders, sexualities, age, and other identity markers so that we may reap the wisdom and experiences that contribute to a vibrant world.

Round One: Connecting (~5 minutes)



Share your name and (3) personal identity markers that are important to you.

Round Two: Recognizing Identities in Communities (~10 minutes)

Choose ONE of the questions below to answer in 1-2 minutes.

What is required of us to build an inclusive community?



How have you used your voice to address power, oppression, and stigma in your community?

What challenges has the COVID-19 pandemic posed for building community?

Round Three: Addressing Stigma and Oppression in Community (~15 minutes)



Choose ONE of the questions below to answer in 1-2 minutes.

When everyone has spoken once, respond to others or address another question of your choice.

What responsibilities do we have to address oppression, power, and stigma in our communities?

What steps can we take to encourage others to appreciate difference and diversity?

What can educational settings (in the classroom and outside of it) do to be more inclusive?

Round Four: Reflections (~10 minutes)

Choose ONE of the questions below to answer in 2 minutes.



What is one thing you are taking away from today's conversation?

What new learning can you apply to your daily lives and conversations?

How might a more collective responsibility to our community improve our society?

References

Block, P. (2018). *Community: The structure of belonging*. Berrett-Koehler Publishers.
Freire, P. (1993). *Pedagogy of the oppressed*. Continuum.