

# What Makes a Community Strong?

**Purpose:** Reflect on the factors that make a community strong and consider the ways in which the advisory group might strengthen its sense of community.

**APPROXIMATE TIME:**

40 minutes

**MATERIALS:**

Paper and markers

**ADVISOR NOTES:****1. Revisit What Is Community? Exit Cards**

This activity opens with the exit cards from Activity 30. If your group did not do Activity 30, you might pose the following question in your opening routine: What makes a community strong?

**PROCEDURE:****1. Share Exit Card Responses from Activity 30: What Is Community?**

Start the meeting in a circle by reading the exit card responses from the last meeting. Ask advisees to listen for commonalities as well as unique ideas. Do not include their names unless you asked them for permission before the advisory meeting.

**2. Discuss the Qualities of a Strong Community in Small Groups**

- Divide the advisory into groups of three or four and give each group a piece of paper and markers. Ask them to discuss the following questions and record their ideas on the paper in a T-chart:
  - Based on what you heard from the exit cards and your own ideas, what are the factors that make a community strong?
  - What are the factors that can weaken a community?
- Then ask each group to share their posters with the advisory group.

**3. Discuss the Idea of Your Advisory as a Community**

Rearrange the group into a circle and discuss the following two questions together. Try to include everyone's voice in the discussion.

- Looking at the lists you created and presented, what qualities of a strong community does our advisory currently have?
- What factors get in the way of our advisory being the strongest community it can be? How might we work together to overcome these factors?

#### 4. Commit to Improving the Advisory Community

- Ask each advisee to complete the following sentence starter in their journal.

One small step I can take to help strengthen our advisory is . . .

- Have everyone, including the advisor, share their sentences in a final **Wraparound** (visit [facinghistory.org/advisory-media](https://facinghistory.org/advisory-media) to learn about this teaching strategy).