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SECTION 3:

# Understanding Community

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## ACTIVITIES

Revisiting Our Advisory Contract

What Is Community?

What Makes a Community Strong?

Crossing the Chocolate River

Human Knot

Transformers

Our Advisory Identity Chart

Advisory Jigsaw Puzzle

Understanding Community Final Reflection



Purpose	Materials	Abridged Advisor Notes
<b>29: Revisiting Our Advisory Contract</b>		30 min <b>page 120</b>
Review, revise (as needed), and recommit to shared group norms and expectations. Draw connections between the factors that make a community strong and the norms that can help ensure it remains strong.	None	You will be prompted to revisit your advisory contract at the beginning of each section of <i>Community Matters</i> to reflect on the ways the group has been honoring its contract and where they feel they can do better. This activity also provides the opportunity to add to or revise any of the norms before moving forward with this section of the Facing History advisory program.
<b>30: What Is Community?</b>		40 min <b>page 122</b>
Explore the factors that make up a community and create a working definition of community.	<b>HANDOUT: What is Community? Anticipation Guide</b>  Four Corners signs Index cards or slips of paper	This activity uses the Four Corners strategy (visit <a href="http://facinghistory.org/advisory-media">facinghistory.org/advisory-media</a> to learn about this teaching strategy). Before the meeting, label the four corners of the room with signs reading "Strongly Agree," "Agree," "Disagree," and "Strongly Disagree."
<b>31: What Makes a Community Strong?</b>		40 min <b>page 125</b>
Reflect on the factors that make a community strong and consider the ways in which the advisory group might strengthen its sense of community.	Paper and markers	This activity opens with the exit cards from Activity 30: What Is Community?
<b>32: Crossing the Chocolate River (Community-Building Activity)</b>		40 min <b>page 127</b>
Foster teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving, and communication. Engage in thoughtful reflection about the decision-making process and group collaboration.	Two pieces of masking tape Paper plates, pieces of paper, or carpet squares (enough for $\frac{1}{2}$ to $\frac{3}{4}$ of the group)  Empty space cleared of desks (about 20 feet)	Before the advisory meeting, clear a space for the "chocolate river" and lay down two long pieces of masking tape about 20 feet apart to designate the river banks.
<b>33: Human Knot (Community-Building Activity)</b>		30 min <b>page 129</b>
Foster teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving, and communication. Engage in thoughtful reflection about the decision-making process and group collaboration.	None	You can repeat this team-building activity in the middle and at the end of the year and reflect on any changes in the group's communication, strategy, or process.
<b>34: Transformers (Community-Building Activity)</b>		20 min <b>page 131</b>
Foster teamwork, cooperation, problem-solving, and communication. Engage in thoughtful reflection about the decision-making process and group collaboration.	None	To make the game more challenging, add a new rule that advisees must remain silent.  After playing a few rounds of the game, or in a future meeting, invite your advisees to suggest ideas for shapes they can make.

Purpose	Materials	Abridged Advisor Notes
<b>35: Our Advisory Identity Chart</b>		40 min <b>page 133</b>
Connect the ideas of identity and community by considering the factors that members of the advisory community share.	<b>HANDOUT: Starburst Identity Chart</b> Chart paper and markers	If you have with extra time in this meeting or in a future meeting, you can have advisees work in groups to brainstorm a name, motto, and symbol that they feel represents their community identity.
<b>36: Advisory Jigsaw Puzzle</b>		45 min <b>page 136</b>
Discuss contributions each individual can make to the advisory community and how the advisory group can support each other.	Piece of chart paper cut into puzzle pieces (one per advisee) Pens, colored pencils, or markers, and clear tape	Before the advisory meeting, cut a piece of chart paper into pieces so there is one piece for each advisee in the group. Cut the pieces in such a way that they are unique shapes and will fit together like a puzzle when reassembled during the activity.
<b>37: Understanding Community Final Reflection</b>		30 min <b>page 138</b>
Review the overarching themes, journal responses, and discussions from this section of <i>Community Matters</i> and reflect on new understanding and lingering questions.	None	Providing advisees with the time and space to reflect on their learning, growth, and lingering questions allows them to synthesize the material in meaningful ways before being introduced to new themes and concepts.

# ACTIVITIES 29–37

### OVERVIEW

We shape, and are shaped by, the communities to which we belong. Therefore, understanding ourselves as individuals requires thinking about the communities that influence our lives. After focusing on the factors that influence our individual identities, advisees now embark on the next stage of the Facing History scope and sequence, “We and They,” by defining community and considering the factors that help make a community strong. They will see that while they are a collection of unique individuals, they are also members of a larger advisory community with shared characteristics and goals. Through journal reflections, activities, and discussions, advisees consider what unique qualities and attributes they bring to their community, what commonalities they share as a group, and how they might support one another over the course of the year. While this section focuses on the advisory community and how advisees will support each other this year, the next sections broaden the scope of the community from advisory to school and beyond.

### NAVIGATING THE ACTIVITIES

All of the activities in this section focus on the theme of community.

- It is important to revisit the advisory contract periodically throughout the year in order to reassess and reaffirm group norms and expectations. Activity 29, and the first activity in each remaining section of *Community Matters*, offers ideas for how to reflect on and revise the contract.
- Activities 30–31 are important because they help advisees explore the many factors that help make a community strong, as well as those factors that can weaken a community.
- Activities 32–34 are community-building games. You can do all three, or you might pick one or two for now and do the third later in the year, maybe after a school break to reaffirm the group’s commitment to each other and the advisory group.
- Activities 36–37 are important because they invite advisees to reflect on their roles in the advisory community and the contributions they can make to strengthen it.