

Creating a Community Code

As a WE Schools group, it's important to create a space in which everyone feels safe to voice their opinions. As you know, some students will be more comfortable speaking up and some will be shy, but everyone should feel that their input is welcome. The following questions will help your students create guidelines for the way they interact and make decisions as a group.

Class Activity

Read the questions aloud and allow students to write down their individual suggestions on separate sheets of paper, or print and distribute the questions on the following pages. Give everyone time to answer, then lead a group discussion.

- ▶ Students can either share their answers with the class or keep them private, whichever they feel more comfortable with. If you are working with younger children, consider asking the questions to the group directly, rather than having them write down their answers.

Group Goals

- 1 What can we do to make sure everyone has a chance to speak at our meetings?
- 2 What can we do to make everyone feel included in our meetings and events?
- 3 How should the group make decisions? Should we vote on decisions? Does the vote have to be unanimous, or just a majority?
- 4 What is at least one way that we can encourage other members of the group when we face an obstacle?
- 5 What would make us feel safe and included in this group?
- 6 What do we think makes a good leader?
- 7 What leadership qualities do we want to develop this year?
- 8 Who are some of our personal heroes who we can look to for inspiration?
- 9 Who will act as recorder and write down our answers in the Service-Learning in Action worksheets? Will we have multiple recorders to share the role or just one person?

Creating a Community Code

As a WE Schools group, it's important to create a community code to help everyone feel comfortable sharing their opinions. Use the questions below to guide a discussion about what you need to feel safe in your group.

Group Goals

1. What can we do to make sure everyone has a chance to speak at our meetings?

2. What can we do to make everyone feel included at our meetings and events?

3. How should the group make decisions?

(E.g., should we vote on decisions? Does the vote have to be unanimous or just a majority?)

4. What is at least one way that we can encourage other members of the group when we face an obstacle?

5. What would make us feel safe and included in this group?

6. What do we think makes a good leader?

7. What leadership qualities do we want to develop this year?

8. Who are some of our personal heroes who we can look to for inspiration?

9. Who will act as our recorder? Will we have multiple recorders to share the role or just one person?

(The recorder is responsible for writing down our answers and updating our progress in Service-Learning in Action.)



Make it official.

Once your group has completed these questions, make sure everyone signs their name on the next page as a contract upholding your promise to make everyone feel respected and included in your group.

Becoming a global citizen starts with your signature!

