

Optional Activity: Word Association Game (suggested time: 10 minutes)**Overview:**

Students share the first word that comes to their mind in response to a question, without repeating a word already shared.

Directions:

Instruct the students to stand and form a circle. The teacher should stand as part of the circle or in the middle of it — whichever works best for the class. The teacher should explain that the students will be answering specific questions about their community as quickly as possible by saying the first word or phrase that comes to their mind. The question will circulate to each student in the circle.

However, answers cannot be repeated. For example, if one student repeats an answer that another student already said, he or she is out and must step out of the circle as the game continues. *(For the sake of classroom management, students may remain just outside of the circle where they can watch and remain engaged in what the other students are saying.)* Since this rule makes the game more difficult for students who answer a question last, start each question at a different point in the circle so that students who answer early in one round will have to answer towards the end of another round. If students get stuck, suggest that it is acceptable to offer a more detailed version of a previous answer. For example, if one student says he likes the restaurants in the community, later students can feel free to name specific restaurants that they like, as long as they don't repeat the name of an individual restaurant.

Choose from the following questions:

- Name one thing you like about your community.
- Name one thing you dislike about your community.
- What businesses are in the community?
- Where do you want to live in 10 years? (In this case, do allow students to repeat answers so that they can actually say their personal preference.) *(Note: This question helps you to understand where the students would want to live if they had a choice in the matter. In 10 years, do they still see themselves in this community, or do they just want to “get out?”)*
- How do people spend their time? (You might want to start this question specifically asking about teenagers, and then broaden it partway around the circle to include adults or young children.)
- Who (individuals or organizations) is helping to make your community better?