

Exercise: What is Your Community?

Instructions: Each of you will choose a community of importance to you, which will become the focus of your work this semester. The purpose of this initial exercise is to help you to (a) select and define this community and (b) reflect on the ways in which this community functions. Please answer the questions below and bring your answers with you to our next class session.

Start: Identify one Community to which you belong and which you'd like to learn / think more about. This community can be anything other than your biological, legal, or adoptive family. Your Community might, for instance, be any of the following.

- A **hobby** community: gaming, skateboarding, gardening, pottery, cooking/food, hiking, travel, RPGs, etc.
- A **sports** community: players or spectators of a sport or team.
- A **music** community: spectators of a musical ensemble, artist, genre, or band; players of particular instruments, genres, or ensemble members.
- A **cause** community: environmentalism, social justice, animal welfare, etc.
- An **exercise** community: groups with shared interests in nutrition, dietary approaches, fitness cultures like CrossFit, etc.
- A **religious or spiritual** community, centered around religious services, youth organization, spiritual or meditation group, etc.
- An **artistic** community: producers and/or consumers of visual or performance arts; fans of a musical artist, movie genre or franchise, celebrity, television show, etc.
- An **academic** community: groups within your course or major; social or intellectual groups; professional or industry-based organizations stemming from these interests.

- Questions:
1. What do you want to understand better about this community?
 2. Whom might you speak with to get more information about this community?
 3. How does this community gather (in person, virtually, regularly or sporadically?)
 4. What platforms does this community use to connect members?
 5. Do members know one another individually?
 6. Do members communicate with one another regularly?
 7. How is this community organized? Does it have a structure, hierarchy?
 8. What are this community's shared values?
 9. What do members of this community have in common?
 10. Why do you feel part of this community?