

# Activity: Community Code

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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.

To run this activity, have students open up the Student Yearbook to **page 6** where they'll find the same list of questions you have here. Give them time to write down their individual suggestions on separate sheets of paper, and then lead a group discussion. Find the overlapping themes and points from your students' answers and get someone to write them down in the Student Yearbook. These will be the group's goals and guidelines for the year, which everyone should have agreed to. Keep in mind, 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 their answers down.*

## CREATING A COMMUNITY CODE

### GROUP GOALS

- ▶ What can we do to make sure everyone has a chance to speak at our meetings?
- ▶ What can we do to make everyone feel included in our meetings and events?
- ▶ How should the group make decisions? (I.e., should we vote on decisions? Does the vote have to be unanimous, or just a majority?)
- ▶ What is at least one way that we can encourage other members of the group when we face an obstacle?
- ▶ What would make us feel safe and included in this group?
- ▶ What do we think makes a good leader?
- ▶ What leadership qualities do we want to develop this year?
- ▶ Who are some of our personal heroes that we can look to for inspiration?
- ▶ Who will act as recorder and write down our answers and update our progress in the Student Yearbook? Will we have multiple recorders to share the role or just one person?

# Community Code

## BEFORE GETTING STARTED, YOU'VE GOTTA FILL OUT SOME PAPERWORK. BUT WE PROMISE YOU IT'LL BE FUN!

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

Who will act as our recorder? Will we have multiple recorders or just one person? (The recorder is responsible for writing down our answers and updating our progress in the Student Yearbook.)

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

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

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

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

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

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What do we think makes a good leader?

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What leadership qualities do we want to develop this year?

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Who are some of our personal heroes that we can look to for inspiration?

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ONCE YOUR GROUP HAS COMPLETED THE ACTIVITY, MAKE SURE EVERYONE SIGNS THEIR NAME IN THE BOX TO THE RIGHT AS A CONTRACT UPHOLDING YOUR PROMISE TO MAKE EVERYONE FEEL RESPECTED AND INCLUDED IN YOUR GROUP.



Becoming a **GLOBAL CITIZEN** STARTS WITH YOUR *signature!*

