

Asset Mapping (activity)

Our teachers: We have adapted this activity from the work of J. P. Kretzmann, and J. L. McKnight's work on community asset mapping.²²

Time: 30 minutes

What it's good for: Collectively recognizing spaces of learning as places of abundance by identifying the skills, strengths, and resources that already exist there.

How it works:*Writing Exercise*

Each person makes a list in response to the following questions:

1. What do you have to offer the group (gifts/skills)? Some examples of gifts/skills: fabrication, Adobe Creative Suite, video editing, writing, cooking, transportation, listening, materials for projects.
2. What do you want from the group (wants/hopes)? Some examples of wants/hopes: transportation, video editing, listening, haircuts, materials for projects.

Creating the List

1. Create a list of gifts/skills, wants/hopes, and contact information for each class member.

2. Form a circle with other members of the group. Go around the room. Each person will share their list.

3. Identify a note taker who will record and make a list of identified resources (gifts/skills), a list of identified wants/hopes, and contact information for each person listed.

NOTE: This list should live in a location where it can be most easily accessed: in the room, in a book, or in a digital space. In our classrooms it lives on a Google Drive in a dedicated class folder called *Who We Are*.

Reflection

1. Turn to the person next to you and together respond to the questions:

- a. What are the benefits of identifying community skills and gifts (assets)?
- b. What suggestions do you have for practical applications of your skills and gifts (assets), and how do you imagine integrating them into your projects in this class?

2. Share the answers to a. and b. with the group.

Optional: Return to this asset map throughout the semester, making announcements about exchanges or gifts/skills each person is looking for at the start of each class. Consider connecting this with the phase Support, making an assignment where each person is required to exchange gifts/skills with one another.

22 J.P.Kretzmann, and J.L. McKnight, "Building communities from the inside out: A path toward finding and mobilizing a community's assets." (ACTA Publications; Evanston, IL, 1993), see also <https://resources.depaul.edu/abcd-institute/resources/Documents/ABCD%20DP%20Slide%20Presentation%20Descriptions.pdf>

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