

Communities

Purpose of the lesson

Introduce the students to the community-building activities, including the activities that the students themselves must plan and carry out outside of the teaching time.

Content (45 min.)

- Introduction to the community-building activities (approx. 25 min.)
 - What is the purpose?
 - Try a community-building activity (possibly the Labyrinth)
 - Presentation of the planning groups
 - About planning an activity
- Students plan an activity (approx. 20 min.)

Practical

The community-building activities are introduced using the PowerPoint presentation.

Students must be introduced to the purpose, the framework, and to how they themselves will be planning activities for the others in the class. Eventually, they get time to plan an activity.

The purpose of community-building activities

Communities do not just exist. They must be created by the individuals who are part of them. This takes hard work. It takes community building.

In order to give the students co-responsibility, ownership and motivation in the development of building their own community you should introduce student-led community-building activities. This gives the students an opportunity to have fun together while building the class community. In this lesson, it must become clear to the students that a good community is something they themselves must actively create. Students are given group responsibility for planning and carrying out an activity for everyone in the class.

In companies it is called team building, while in Network it is called community building, but the point is the same - when you work well together socially, it is easier to work together professionally. At the same time, one tends to show greater tolerance and understanding towards one another when one has gotten to know each other well.

After you have explained to students the purpose of the community-creating activities, you initiate a short teacher-led activity (possibly the Labyrinth). It gives students an insight into the intent and design of the activities. You decide what activity it should be. In the PowerPoint presentation, some suggestions have been noted, and you will find all the teacher-led community-creating activities on the website.

Planning groups

Before this lesson, divide the class into planning groups with four students in each. The students still have their buddy groups (which now function as working groups), and you may use the buddy groups as a starting point for the planning groups. The planning groups run until the summer holidays. After the summer holidays, the students are divided into new planning groups, which run until Christmas and so on. The community-

building activities continue for the rest of the school years. Of course, if new students enter the class, you will need to adjust the planning groups along the way.

The planning groups must take turns arranging an activity for the class. Thus, there will be at least one community-building activity per. month. It is important to distribute the activities to maintain a continued focus on the community. All planning groups must have held an activity before the summer holidays.

Types of activities

You should must make the students aware that on the student part of the Network's website (the class gets a joint login from you) they can find inspiration for community-building activities.

Supporting the students

Since the purpose of the student-led activities is for the students to take ownership and make them their own, the students themselves plan the activities outside of school hours. Your role as a teacher is to set it in motion, be available for questions and remind the responsible planning groups that it is their turn to arrange an activity.

If you have used the teacher-led community-building activities since the beginning of school, the students already know the intention behind the activities. If you have not yet embarked on the teacher-led community-creating activities, this lesson is the starting point. It is your job as a teacher to take the lead in front of the class while making an effort to support the student-student relationships. The community-building activities build on the other Network elements.

Main points in lesson 6

A community does not create itself - it requires active actions, will and energy.

When students know each other in class, it is easier for them to consider and understand each other's differences.

Community-building activities are a good way to get students actively involved in creating a strong community in the classroom.

Preparation

- Prepare a teacher-led community-building activity.
- Divide the class into planning groups.
- Read about the teacher-led community-building activities at www.projektnetwork.dk.