

Activity 5.7 Practicing Collaboration with Others¹

Description

Three presenters pitch campus initiatives or community programs they want to keep, get rid of, or flirt with in order to create their ideal shared community. Participants discuss their own ideas while building a collaborative city out of LEGOs.

Learning Goal

- How to actively listen to and constructively incorporate diverse opinions, needs, or concerns when working towards a shared vision.

Practice (50 minutes)

Step One	Set-Up. This activity can be used in a classroom or workshop. It can also be the basis of a community event. If designing this activity as a community event, review the Warm Cookies of the Revolution Event Checklist . Basic materials needed: LEGOs	N/A
Step Two	Have all participants sit around a large table with LEGOs spread in the middle. Explain to them that, throughout the event, they will be using the LEGOs to collaboratively build a city. This hands-on activity will happen concurrently, in the background, while participants listen to the pitches that are being made.	N/A
Step Three	As participants begin to build their city, introduce the goal of the event and the three guests who will be pitching the campus or community programs they want to keep, get rid of, or flirt with.	5 min
Step Four	Have each guest or participant give their pitch, one at a time. Each pitch will have 5 minutes. Keep track of time and let speakers know when they are running out of time.	15 min

¹ **Citation for this activity:** Evan Weissman (2023). Practicing Collaboration with Others. In Hartman, Britt, & Byrd (Eds). *The Interactivity Foundation Collaborative Discussion Toolkit*. Retrieved from <https://www.collaborativediscussionproject.com/module-5-civic-collaboration-1>

	Note: participants can be recruited ahead of time or small groups can convene prior to determine a topic. Topics generated in Activity 5.8 Practicing Deliberation with Others could also be used in this space.	
Step Five	When the pitches are complete, invite participants to give elevator speech-type pitches of their own ideas regarding programs that would exist in their ideal community. This is a lightning round to keep things fast paced and fun, so encourage them to keep it under two minutes per person. Anticipate, perhaps, 10 elevator speeches or pitches.	20 min
Step Six	To conclude the activity, debrief as a large group: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• What were some common themes that came up in the three main pitches and/or the lightning round?• What kinds of features did folks build in their ideal LEGO city?• What surprised people about the pitches?	10 min

Reflection

- How important were the legos in this activity? What does that tell you about how people collaborate or work together?
- Which additional or follow-up elevator-pitch impressed you the most? What did you observe about the follow-up pitches?
- What if citizens came together to discuss and collaborate? What would be required by people and society to make this part of our democratic culture?

Practice Journal

This week, practice collaborating with someone but do so while your hands are being occupied. That is, try discussing a topic that requires building on the ideas of others and generating new ideas together, but do this while engaged in another activity (perhaps a sport, art, craft, walk, etc.) Reflect on the importance of engaging in another activity while collaborating. How does it change the process and the outcome?

Dive Deeper: Additional Resources

- Forthcoming