

Ideation Lesson 1: Understanding your Community

Directions: Complete this worksheet to identify a community you'd like to help and gather some data about its members. *Note: [Please make a copy](#) and then edit to your needs.*

1. Community brainstorm: Complete the table below. What are six different communities you are a part of or interested in helping?

A.	B.
C.	D.
E.	F.

2. Pick two communities from the table above to complete the table below:

What is your community like?	Community 1:	Community 2:
Age		
Language		
Cultures or Traditions		
Geographic Location		
Interests		

3. Which community do you want to focus on?

4. Why did you pick this community?

Community Documenting: This activity will help you gather information and characteristics about your community so that you can better understand its needs. It should take about **60 minutes** and should take place

outside of your team meeting.

Prepare: In advance, agree on where or who the team wants to observe. Then schedule a time to do this activity. You might need to schedule a time with the community you are observing.

1. Quietly observe. If you are observing people, tell them you are there to watch and learn. Take notes, and, if you have permission from the people present, take pictures. If you are in an open space, walk around the area and make a note of or take pictures of the major structures (e.g. churches, stores, buildings, schools).
2. Look for less obvious things. Some examples: a person's silence, a look between people, a community garden, a vacant lot, billboards. If possible, take pictures. Think about not only what you see, but also what you hear, smell, or feel.
3. After your observations, respond to the following questions:

What surprised you the most about the community?

Can you see any problems that are affecting the community? If so, *what* is the problem, *who* is it affecting, and *how*?

What do you think this community needs to help solve that problem?

Who might be responsible for making that change and how?

Is this a potential problem that you could help to solve?