

Quotation 2: From the Othering and Belonging Institute at University of California, Berkeley:

More than just being seen or feeling included, belonging entails having a voice and the opportunity to use it to make demands upon society and political institutions. Belonging is more than having access; it is about the power to co-create the structures that shape a community.²

- When compared to Cohen’s perspective in the first quotation, what *new* ideas about belonging does this quotation add that resonate with you?

- Think about your school. What would it look like, sound like, and feel like for students to have the power to “co-create the structures that shape [the] community”? Consider aspects of your school like classroom culture, curriculum, school rules, clubs, teams, student government, and assemblies.

² [“Glossary of Terms,”](#) The Othering & Belonging Institute. Accessed August 24, 2023.

Quotation 3: From *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* by researcher and author, Brené Brown:

On page 145, I defined *belonging* as the innate human desire to be part of something larger than us. One of the biggest surprises in this research [on human connection] was learning that fitting in and belonging are not the same thing. In fact, fitting in is one of the greatest barriers to belonging. Fitting in is about assessing a situation and becoming who you need to be in order to be accepted. Belonging, on the other hand, doesn't require us to *change* who we are; it requires us to *be* who we are.³

- According to Brené Brown, what is the difference between fitting in and belonging? Respond to this question in your own words.

- What does it look like and feel like when someone is trying to fit in with a group?

- What does it look like and feel like when someone belongs in a group?

- Why is it sometimes easier for us to try to fit in rather than try to belong?

³ Brown, Brené, *Daring Greatly: How the Courage to Be Vulnerable Transforms the Way We Live, Love, Parent, and Lead* (New York, NY: Gotham Books, 2012), 231-232.