

ACTIVITY: SURVEYING WITH MARBLES

Asking questions of participants in a safe and fun environment is a great way to begin to build relationships among group members. But with large groups, or even with small vocal groups, it’s difficult to remember everyone’s responses. This exercise helps group members visualize their peers’ responses in a concrete way and keep the considerations and needs of others present throughout the community-change effort.

OVERVIEW

This activity gleans evaluation and survey information from participants and strengthens relationships among members. The instructions that follow assume that you are surveying based on age groups (ages 13–14, 15–24, 25–55, and 56–100); however, you can survey according to any grouping you like, (e.g., gender, type of community you live in).

OBJECTIVES

- To create a fun environment
- To gather information about participants

TIME REQUIRED

30 minutes (15 minutes of preparation and set-up time)

SUPPLIES

You’ll need marbles of different colors (a separate color for each group – e.g., age or gender – and enough of each color for everyone in that group to use for each statement), glass or clear plastic containers – vases or jars work well – (one for each statement), and “statement cards” See **Sample Statements for “Surveying with Marbles”**.

WHAT	TIME	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 1: Setting it up	15 min	Set out glass vases with statement cards underneath – one container for each card. Be sure the container is wide enough at the top for marble to fit in and large enough to hold a lot of marbles. Also be sure that participants can read the questions easily.	Glass or clear plastic containers Marbles Cards with statements
Step 2: Explaining the activity	10 min	Bring participants together and tell them, “We all have different-colored marbles according to our ages (or whatever groupings you’re using). I’m going to read a series of statements aloud – these are the same statements that are next to each container. If the statement is true for you, put a marble into the corresponding container.” Read the first set of statements: “You are a youth (under the age of 25).” “You are an adult (ages 25–55).” “You are an elder (ages 56 and older).” For each statement, give the participants time to put their marbles in the appropriate container. Then read the remaining statements. Allow members to mingle.	

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WHAT	TIME	HOW	MATERIALS
Step 3: Reviewing the results	5 min	After everyone has finished, gather the containers and share the results with the participants. You can do this by actually counting the marbles or simply displaying the containers with the results. You may want to record the information gathered for later use.	

SAMPLE STATEMENTS FOR "SURVEYING WITH MARBLES"

You are a **youth** (under the age of 25). You are an **adult** (ages 25–55). You are an **elder** (ages 56 and older).

You feel like a youth. You feel like an adult. You feel like an elder.

You live in the community where you were born.

You participate in a youth-adult partnership.

Your life has been changed because of (insert program name here).

You feel the power of the collective in your work.

You believe you can make change in your community.

You feel that your voice is heard during this workshop.

You have learned something new during this workshop.

You have had fun during this workshop.