

FAST FACTS



10+
People



45-60
Minutes



\$0



Med-High
Risk Level

Where I'm From Poems

Purpose of Activity: The purpose of this activity is to give students a creative opportunity to express their cultural background.

Objectives/Learning Outcomes:

By actively participating in this activity, participants will:

- Understand the self-perception of culture
- Be able to communicate to others their experience and background
- Connect to their past and recognize the input it has on today

Materials Needed:

- Paper
- Writing Utensils
- Where I'm From Brainstorm Guide

Ground Rules:

- Be fully present and participate at your own comfort level – challenge by choice.
 - Follow up - What does it mean to be “fully present”?
 - Follow up - What does “challenge by choice” mean?
- Push yourself outside of your comfort zone – the most learning happens when we are a little bit uncomfortable.
- Listen respectfully, share air time, and encourage others to participate.
- It's ok for us all to be at different places with the things we discuss today.
- Show respect for one another's beliefs, values, and experiences.
- Respect and maintain privacy.

Disclaimer:

- This is a challenge by choice activity. It is okay if a participant doesn't want to share their poetry. It can be enough just to write it.

Facilitation Guide:

- Students should be given paper and writing utensils in order to construct their “Where I'm From” poems.
 - These poems can be interpreted in any way. They are supposed to give participants the opportunity to reflect on their background and put into their own words what it means to them.
- Give participants approximately thirty minutes to write their poems.
 - It can be more time; it can be less depending upon the group.
- Once the poems have been written, gather the group to share them.



FAST FACTS



10+
People



45-60
Minutes



\$0



Med-High
Risk Level

- Let the audience know that there will be no commentary on the poems. However, if something resonates, feel free to snap your fingers for acknowledgement.
- At the end, take some time to reflect on what was shared.

Discussion Questions:

- What are your initial feelings/reactions?
- How did you feel creating the poem?
- Did you learn anything about yourself?
- Was there any hesitation in sharing? If so, why?
- Why would we do this activity? How does it relate to inclusion?