



Optional Activity: Picture Your Legacy

The *Skills for Bridging the Gap* curriculum consists of four, sequential modules: “Why Build Bridges?,” “Listening,” “Sharing Your Story,” and “Approaching Tension Constructively”. The following “Picture Your Legacy” activity is offered as an optional learning experience to accompany this core curriculum.

We recommend that this Picture Your Legacy activity be used after learners have completed all four modules of the curriculum. They will get the most out of the experience with the practice of the full curriculum behind them. That said, it could also be used between Modules 3 and 4.

Time: 75 mins

Format: Synchronous; in person

Supplemental Materials: One [Picture Your Legacy deck](#) for each participant (or you could share fewer decks across the group; ideally each participant has at least 20 cards at their disposal)

Learning Outcomes:

By the end of this activity, learners will be able to:

- Describe one or two top values that animate their lives
- Connect a personal experience to a value they hold
- Share at least one story about one of their values
- Share a reflection on the differences or similarities between their values and those of their peers

Pework for the Facilitator

- Read *Habits of Effective Bridge Builders*

AGENDA

Introduction (5 mins)

Give each participant a *Picture Your Legacy* deck (or share fewer decks across the group – ideally each participant has at least 20 cards to work with).

Share that “values” are principles that inform our choices and decisions. This is the case even – maybe even *particularly* – when our decisions might be hard or unpopular. Values play a central role in how people construct meaning and a worldview. We will be practicing sharing about our values with each other today.

Round 1: Individual (10 mins)

Tell participants that this activity begins with sorting images. We will be using images because they can sometimes allow us to go deeper than words. They also help prompt stories. We might believe in “fairness,” for example, but this word can mean different things to each of us. An image that we believe evokes fairness can prompt us to share stories. In the process of sharing those stories, we go deeper than the “headline,” and open possibilities for connection.



Ask participants to go through all 50 (or fewer) images in the deck and determine the top three that speak to the values that matter **most** to them – values that inform how they try to lead their lives. Each participant should also select the three images that **least** reflect their values (or least speak to them). If participants finish choosing their images early, ask them to start reflecting on personal experiences or stories that relate to the cards they have selected.

Round 2: Partners (15 mins)

Pair participants up, and ask them to share their six cards (the ones that most and least represented their individual values), along with a story that speaks to what the images (or one image) mean or represent to them.

The facilitator can remind participants of the following from Modules 2 and 3 as appropriate:

Listening Skills for Bridge Building

1. Silence: First, we practice listening without adding anything. We listen in silence and stillness with 100% presence. We listen with everything we've got and add nothing.
2. Footprint: We practice using only the words and phrases we've heard from the speaker to reflect what we are hearing, affirm that we are present, and bear witness. We call this staying in the "footprint" of the other person's language as we don't introduce any new words or ideas of our own to the conversation.
3. Encouragers: We add signals that let the other person know we are listening, tracking, engaged, curious, and following along.
4. Open-Ended Questions: We use open-ended questions and prompts to draw out further details, without adding in our own perspectives or leading the person in a particular direction.
5. Sorting, Grouping, Synthesizing: We try to parse out different elements of what the speaker shares. If the speaker shares a list of feelings, we might want to name them as distinct or group them into a category. If the speaker lists a range of experiences, we may want to reflect back the distinctiveness of each one.

Techniques for a Great Story

1. Short but Detailed: Sometimes we summarize an event or refer to it generally thinking the summary will save time. But it can often take longer and have less of an impact when you do this. Instead, keep it brief but make it vivid.
2. Show Don't Tell: Rather than explaining that you heard a great joke, and it really made you laugh, tell the joke!
3. Strong Close: Great stories don't end in a whisper. Some people say our stories are only as strong as their close. That doesn't mean we need to re-explain everything at the end for the listener, just that we finish it with clarity and a firm (even if unresolved) note.

Round 3: Two Groups (30 mins)

Split all participants into two groups (or more, depending on the number of participants). Ask them to look through all of the images, continuing to share stories about why they picked their images. Ask them to identify the following:

- Which cards, if any, were picked by multiple people? Were they picked for the same reasons?
- What common themes are present?



- What are the most meaningful areas of divergence?
- Which images yielded different interpretations or opinions?

As this group phase of the exercise nears its close, ask participants to be prepared to share 3–5 observations that they made about the most popular and least popular cards or themes, as well as about the experience of individually selecting cards and then coming together.

Alternate Option for Round 3: As time allows, the facilitator can also choose to keep doubling the groups until they form two, large groups. For instance, pairs would become groups of four, and then in the next round, they would be in groups of eight, and so on.

Group Discussion and Close (15 mins)

Ask a couple folks from each group to share out their observations. Alternatively or additionally, each participant can also place an image they feel is important from this process on a table or surface where everyone can view them. The group can take a brief gallery walk to view all of the images and then discuss what they are noticing.

Transition into closing by asking participants each to share one takeaway from the process or one image that they are still thinking about and why.