

Inspiration Wall

Identify People Who Expand Possibilities

Description

Participants name people who have inspired them, and then work together to create an inspiration collage.

Objective

- Build and strengthen relationships among participants
- Build and strengthen relationships among participants and leaders
- Deepen understanding of the element of Expand Possibilities

Connecting with the Framework

This activity gives participants the opportunity to reflect on the people who inspire them and to broaden their horizons by learning about people who inspire others.

Planning and Preparation

 **Participants:** 10-15

 **Materials:**

- Paper
- Pencils or pens
- Flip chart paper or white board
- Markers
- Optional: poster board or display board
- Glue sticks, glue or tape
- Optional: computer and printer for printing photos, quotes, and other artifacts from an online search
- Optional: paper of different colors and textures, and other art supplies to decorate a collage

 **Time:** 30 minutes or more, depending on how much time your group puts into the visual aspects of the collage

 **Set up:**

- If possible, identify wall space where you could post (and leave) the inspiration wall.
- Alternative ideas: Use a poster board, butcher paper, or display board that can be stored, then pulled out again in the future, or create an inspiration book/binder instead.



EXPAND
POSSIBILITIES



Facilitator Notes:

It is possible someone may choose a person who another participant dislikes, such as a politician or even a teacher. You can approach this in a few different ways:

- If a participant selects a person who has caused harm (e.g., Hitler) ask them questions that will guide them to reconsider their choice: What do you find inspiring about this person? What are some things that are uninspiring or negative about this person? Do you think including this person on the collage could be hurtful to anyone? Is there another person you could choose instead who also inspires you but might be a better fit for our whole group?
- If a participant selects a person who might be polarizing, such as a politician, have a group discussion to decide whether you want your collage to be a reflection of people who inspire everyone in the group or if you want it to be a collage that reflects people who inspire individuals. If the group chooses the first option, give them opportunities to discuss or debate including people collaboratively. If the group chooses the second option, remind them that the collage is a reflection of inspiration for each individual in the group, not necessarily the group as a whole. (In this scenario, it may still be necessary to redirect any universally problematic contributions.)

Facilitator Instructions

1. If participants have been introduced to the Developmental Relationships Framework, let them know that through this activity we will be practicing the element of Expand Possibilities.
2. Have each participant think of three or four people who have inspired them to learn, grow, tackle a big goal, or overcome an obstacle. Jot them on sheets of paper (just for themselves). These could be people participants are personally connected to, including friends, extended family, ancestors, teachers, classmates, coaches, or mentors. Others may be historical figures, national or international leaders, celebrities, athletes, authors, or others who did things that inspired them.
3. Talk as a whole group about how these people are inspiring. List everyone on a whiteboard or flipchart paper. Have people talk about people who most inspire them and why they chose those people.

4. Invite each participant to choose one of their inspiring people to feature in a large group collage. Encourage them to include both well-known people and some who participants might know personally. Find an open wall, a table, or other surface where you can create a large collage that you can keep displayed for a while. Write each inspiring person's name to post on the collage. You can post photos along with the names (it may take extra time to find and print or collect the photos). Depending on how much time you have available, you may also decide to have participants write something to describe the people, create artwork representing the people, and find quotes or other artifacts or images that represent these people to include in the collage. If you prefer, you can create an online collage. Type "collage maker" into a search engine to find a free service that works for your group.

Reflect

Discuss these questions as a large group:

- Talk more about the people—and others who have inspired you. What do they do that really matters to us?
- How have these people made us better? What do they inspire us to do?
- What was it like to decide who to include on our wall? How did it work to make decisions as a group?
- Did you learn about any new people you want to get to know or learn more about from the people your peers shared? How might these people inspire you in the future?

Taking Action (optional)

Leave the inspiration wall up for as long as you like as a reminder. Add to it if you think of new things. If some of the people on your wall live nearby, invite them to see it.