

Throughlines

COMMUNITY BUILDING

Greeting

Gather in the opening circle, and remind learners to greet and welcome each other by name. We encourage the sentence stem, "Good morning [name]! We're glad you're here!" As part of his/her turn, each student is invited to share a story about community building. After being greeted, each learner will share a reflection on community building. Choose one of the prompts below to guide learners' sharing:

- Share a time that you learned something from someone else.
- Share a time that a friendship gave you courage or helped you accomplish something that you couldn't have done alone.
- Share a time when you were able to contribute to your community in a way that was an encouragement to you.

Initiative: Shape the Center

Place a large tray, table, or mat in the middle of the group. Fill a basket or bucket with small items, such as: wooden blocks, stones, figurines, natural materials, cards with words/values, string, sticks, paper shapes, or symbolic objects. Make sure there's a mix of shapes, textures, and meanings.

Put together a simple structure in the center — e.g., 5–6 blocks in a small stack or a few symbolic objects in a loose circle. Invite the group to form a circle. One at a time, each person takes a turn to step forward and make one change to the structure in the center:

- They can add, remove, or move one item.
- No speaking during the process.
- Encourage them to act with intention — even if they're not sure why, they can trust their instinct.

Once everyone has taken their turn, observe the final structure together for a moment in silence. Then, invite reflection on the activity, using questions like the ones below:

- *What stands out about the final result?*
- *How did it feel to make your change?*
- *What surprised you about the changes others made?*

