



LAUNCH WITH AN EXPLORATORY LEARNING COMMUNITY

Lesson

An exploratory learning community expands possibility. Remember, if you want to expand your knowledge, hang out with people who know things you don't. An exploratory learning community produces motivation and ongoing support for its members.

Question (use Practice to answer)

Which exploratory learning community supports you?

Practice (to answer Question)

To create and facilitate your own exploratory learning community, follow the steps below:

- 1 Recruitment:** Recruit and enroll two or three smart, diversely experienced people who commit to meet monthly to inspire, advise, tackle challenges, and solve problems together and follow the Exploratory Learning Community Framework in step 2.

- 2 Exploratory Learning Community Framework:** Use this framework to guide your exploratory learning community:
- **Schedule your monthly meeting.** Set up a monthly virtual or in-person sixty-minute meeting. For each meeting, the group designates a meeting leader. The assigned leader sends out a calendar invite to the group, runs the agenda, and takes notes.
 - **Share inspiration.** To kick off the meeting, the leader shares something inspirational, like a quote, thought, or experience they have had and why it's a favorite.
 - **Do a two-minute check-in.** Each member shares something positive (a “rose”) and a challenge (a “thorn”) that has happened since the last meeting.
 - **Review priorities.** Each member shares one of their most important priorities (personal or professional) over the last thirty days and what obstacles they are facing. The other members provide helpful feedback and advice on what they could do to get around their obstacles.
 - **Make final declarations.** Each member declares up to three priorities (personal or professional) they would like to work on between now and the next meeting. The leader archives the declarations and sends them out via email after the meeting. **Note:** The priorities should be clear and concise and include a date of desired completion.
 - **Schedule your next meeting.** The group schedules the upcoming month's meeting and assigns a new leader.

Example

- 1 Recruitment:** I will recruit and enroll Kevin (teacher), Rip (writer), and Lani (leadership development expert) to form an exploratory learning community, and we will help each other navigate our challenges and celebrate our successes. These awesome souls are very different from me, yet I have deep respect for each of them, and we are all aligned in our commitment to lifelong learning.
- 2 Exploratory Learning Community Framework:** Our new group will meet on a regular monthly cadence, and we will use the Exploratory Learning Community Framework to facilitate our meetings.