

Five Essential Types of Social Capital Worksheet

Description:

The Five Essential Types of Social Capital Worksheet provides a table describing each of the social capital types, from caring friends and adults to connectors and resources, and prompts you to analyze how your school and learning experiences currently provide opportunities for students to cultivate and grow their social network.

Purpose:

This tool helps continue to familiarize you with the 5-5-5 realities, specifically the types of social capital that young people need to invest in as they navigate the wayfinding decade. By completing the table and answering the guiding questions, you will see how your school's current learning experiences set students up to understand the importance of social capital and networks, which can spark discussion and meaning-making. Like all MyWays tools, the Five Essential Types of Social Capital Worksheet is flexible and adaptable to many purposes. We highly recommend customizing the tool to fit your needs.

Instructions for Use:

Working individually, analyze how your school or district's learning experiences are equipping students to successfully make these central decisions by answering the guiding questions in the blank spaces in the table. (Work on hard copy, or load the template into a Google doc for collaborative editing.) Then as a team, compare your worksheets and discuss using these guiding questions:

- Where is your model strongest?
- What types of social capital is not being considered at all through your learning experiences?

Activating Next Steps:

Based on that analysis, create an action plan using this simple framework:

- **Act:** What needs to be done to help students activate and grow their social network?
- **Potential support:** Who can help? Who are our potential partners?
- **Resources needed:** What resources do we need to be able to do this? Where will they come from?
- **Potential obstacles and ideas for overcoming:** What potential obstacles might we face and what can we do to overcome them?

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MyWays Five Types of Social Capital	Social Capital Types Mapped to Our Students' Current Opportunities (and/or Challenges)
<p>Caring Friends & Adults</p> <p><i>What opportunities exist in our school community for students to develop relationships with caring friends and adults, beyond family members? How are we cultivating the bonding or “we-ness” that research shows is highly consonant with increased effort, engagement, and academic achievement?</i></p> <p><i>In what ways is emotional support and safety, which are the bedrock of these relationships, cultivated?</i></p>	
<p>Near-Peers & Role Models</p> <p><i>In what ways do students have the opportunity to bond and engage in constructive relationships with younger and older peers?</i></p> <p><i>What dynamics generally characterize relationships between student grade-level cohorts in our school? How can we help them become as positive as possible? How can we disrupt “grade-level tyranny” if it exists?</i></p> <p><i>How are we considering the “zone of proximal development”</i></p>	

in terms of pairing and connecting peers who are performing or progressing at different levels within a given domain?

How are we helping students cultivate a web of role models, whether it be through the arts, sports, fictional characters, peers, coaches, community leaders, or other people in their lives? Having people to look to is a key part of the social network.

Mentors & Coaches

In what ways, both formal and informal, do mentoring and coaching come into play in our students' lives?

How much support and guidance – and time – do we provide to coaches and mentors to work with their mentees?

Networks & Weak Ties

How are we helping students cultivate a network and help-seeking orientation? How are we helping them understand the importance of developing and using “weak ties” and how it’s often these acquaintances that can lead to opportunities?

<p>Resources & Connectors</p> <p><i>What are the systems and supports we are designing so we can broker and connect young people to potential resources embedded in social networks?</i></p> <p><i>How are we using the myriad of web-based apps and platforms to help students access the knowledge, skills, and advice of millions of “more knowledgeable others” that is readily available at their fingertips?</i></p>	