

It's Your Community!

Month: Jan.

Week #: 17

Day: Th & Fri Time: 30 min.

# How Can We Make It Better?

Life Tree Learning Systems ©

**Objectives/Aims**

The students will: formulate measurable strategies to improve their negative community attributes.

**Materials**

none

**Illustration**

This is what this classroom is doing to make their community better. How can we make our classroom better?

**Background**

Human beings, by their very nature, are socially oriented. We live a large part of our lives interacting within various communities (e.g. family, school, church, work, sports team). The quality of our individual lives is greatly influenced by the communities that we live in, and it is our individual choices and actions (responsibilities) that directly affect the positive nature of that community.



**How can we make our community better?**

- \* Cooperate with the teachers
- \* Gladly help others when they ask
- \* Put things away when we are done
- \* Have a positive attitude about work

**Definition:**

community - a unified body of people with a common characteristic and/or interest living together within a larger society at a specified location

In his book, *The Road Less Traveled*, M. Scott Peck lists the four essential foundational building blocks of a joyful, functional and effective community:

*Inclusive* - each member is recognized, accepted, and embraced

*Responsive* - the community meets individual needs

*Contemplative* - the group continually examines and monitors progress

*Safe* - each member feels secure and protected

**Group Activity**

1. Say, "Today we are going to develop strategies, or ways to strengthen our community building blocks. First, we need to select one to work on. If we try to do them all at once, we might become overwhelmed and frustrated. By a show of hands, who thinks we should work on..." Point at each building block while tallying the number of raised hands.

2. Once the building block is selected, have the students make specific behavioral strategies to solve the problem and a time frame by which it will be accomplished. If you're not getting much of a response in a large group format, you can always split the students into small groups. For example, the students have chosen the strategy of being more hospitable to address being more responsive to other's needs. It is suggested that each week a new student will be selected to

### **Group Activity (continued)**

welcome and host visitors. This is a strategy that could be evaluated at the end of a designated time period, perhaps at the weekly Kaizen Community Meeting. Select as many strategies as you deem necessary in helping to solve the problem and strengthen the building block.

### **Group Discussion Questions**

### **Variations/Extensions**

### **Conclusion**

Say, "You've all worked cooperatively to formulate some strategies to improve our building blocks and strengthen our community. By a show of hands, who is actually willing to work to implement the strategies?" Hopefully, everybody raises their hands. If some students do not, ask them why they are unwilling to work towards making a better community. "Even the best intentions, the best laid plans will go nowhere unless we actually take action. It's like designing a really cool house, and then never lifting a hammer to build it."



*Lucas  
Borwick  
9/30/09*

**How can we make our community better?**

- \* Cooperate with the teachers
- \* Gladly help others when they ask
- \* Put things away when we are done
- \* Have a positive attitude about work

**This is what this classroom is doing to make their community better.  
How can we make our classroom better?**