

Question guide: I Belong!

This question guide is for teachers engaging in the *I Belong!* project. You may choose to explore some or all of the questions below with your students. You are also welcome to come up with some of your own.

BELONGING

What does it mean to 'belong'?

- To be accepted, wanted, needed, seen, to fit in, to experience a sense of connection to a place or group of people
- The desire to belong is innate
- Belonging offers people a sense of safety and security, wellbeing and identity

How is belonging expressed?

- Through acts of caring, recognition, acceptance, service and cooperation
- How do I know that I belong?
 - To a group of people?
 - To a place?

What communities or groups do I belong to in Quebec society?

- What are some of the benefits of belonging to multiple communities/groups?
- What are some of the challenges?

How does the language(s) I speak influence my sense of belonging in Quebec society?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my community?
- In my province?

Where do I feel a strong sense of belonging? Why?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my neighbourhood?
- In my community
- In my province?

Where do I feel as though I don't fit in/belong? Why?

- At home?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my neighbourhood?
- In my community
- In my province?

Where do I want to belong?

- How do I get there?

How do I (or can I) help others to feel like they belong in Quebec society?

How can others help me to feel like I belong in Quebec society?

SUGGESTED TIMING

DIGITAL STORYTELLING

- > During storyboarding process
(Hands on Media Education will integrate select questions)

PERFORMANCE & VISUAL ARTS

- > Prior to performance
- > In process with local artist

COMMUNITY SERVICE LEARNING (CSL)

- > Inventory and Investigation (Step 1)



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COMMUNITY, SERVICE & BELONGING

- A community is a group of people that....
- I feel like I belong to a community when...
- When people experience a strong sense of belonging to their community, it's because they share...
- I show the people in my community that I care about them by...
- I feel cared for by the members of my community when...
- I would like to serve my community by....
- I can help members of my community to feel like they belong by...

IDENTITY & BELONGING

What is 'identity'?

- "Characteristics or identifiers that make us unique or known, or that we are grouped by. These could include race, ethnicity, gender, disability, or sexual orientation." Edutopia

Who am I?

- What are some of my defining characteristics or identifiers?
- What makes something a 'defining' characteristic?
- What characteristics are visible? Which ones are invisible?
- What identifiers have I chosen?
- What identifiers have I inherited?

How has my upbringing influenced my sense of self?

- Family values
- Religion
- Languages spoken
- Societal influences & constructs
 - Cultural norms
 - Views on gender/sex, race, ethnicity

What is the relationship between symbols and identity (e.g., flags)?

- What symbols, if any, have a special meaning to me?
- Why?

Which aspects of my identity, if any, are often misunderstood in Quebec society (i.e., understood differently by 'insiders' and 'outsiders')?

- What are some of the stereotypes I encounter?
- What could be done to enhance people's understanding of this aspect of my identity?

What aspects of my identity, if any, are challenging to hold at the same time in Quebec society (e.g., identifying as both gay and Catholic, or both English and French)?

- How do I manage this tension?

How does my identity (languages spoken/ gender/sexuality/race/ethnicity/class/religion/ abilities or disabilities) influence my sense of belonging:

- At home?
- Within my larger family?
- At school?
- At work?
- In my community?
- In my province?

How do I (or can I) help others to feel seen or accepted in Quebec society?

How can others help me to feel seen or accepted in Quebec society?

THIS QUESTION GUIDE WAS CREATED BY LEARN'S PROVINCIAL RESOURCE TEAM IN AUGUST, 2020.

- Sources consulted in the creation of this guide include:
1. *Vital Signs, Community Foundations of Canada* (2015, 2016, 2017)
 2. *Vital Signs: Arts & Belonging, Community Foundations of Canada* (2017)
 3. *Creating an Identity Safe Classroom*, Edutopia (2015)
 4. *Creating a Learning Environment Where all Kids Feel Valued*, Edutopia (2019)
 5. *Belonging as Pedagogical, Practical and Political*, J. McLeod (2018)
 6. *All Students Need Anti-racism Education*, C. Torres (2020)
 7. *Identity in Question*, OpenLearn (2020)
 8. *I Belong! Developing themselves as a member of a community*, Northern Ireland Curriculum (2020)

