

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

Belonging is a sense of fitting in or feeling like you are a valued member of a group.

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 normal
- Belonging offers people a sense of safety and security, wellbeing and identity

How do others help me to feel like I belong?

- By greeting me, playing or working with me, helping me or asking me for help, accepting me for who I am etc.
- How do I know that I belong?
 - To a group of people?
 - To a place?

What are some of the communities that I belong to in Quebec?

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

SUGGESTED TIMING

DIGITAL STORYTELLING & PUPPET THEATRE

> Prior to students' first session with the artist.

TAKE ACTION (CSL)

> Prior to Step 1 (Inventory & Investigation)



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COMMUNITY, SERVICE & BELONGING

A community is a large or small group of people living in a particular area. The land area of a community can also be large or small. Community can also mean a group of people with common interests that may or may not be physically close to each other.

- 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 (e.g., values, ideas, interests, geography)...
- 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

Your personal identity is a composite of all your personality traits, beliefs, values, physical attributes, abilities, aspirations, and other identifiers that make you who you are.

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 (e.g., eyes, hair, nose, smile)?
- What characteristics are visible? Which ones are invisible (e.g., sexual orientation, values)?
- What identifiers have I chosen (e.g., clothing that lets people know I am a hockey fan)?
- What identifiers have I inherited (e.g., eye shape, freckles, hair)?

How has my family life and experiences 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 parts of my identity, if any, are often misunderstood in Quebec society?

- What are some of the stereotypes I encounter?
- What could people do to better understand this part of my identity?

What parts 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, or as Muslim in a post 9/11 world)?

- How do I manage this?

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?

