



Facilitation Guide: Launching Our Work as a Team

TOTAL SESSION TIME: 150 minutes

SESSION OBJECTIVES: Participants will learn about the NIJ YPAR program and get to know each other.

PREPARE:

- Set up the screen/projector for slide deck
- Print enough copies of the Coat of Arms Worksheet so every participant and facilitator will have a sheet.

Opening Block: Community Vision Statement

TIME: 15 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will learn each other's names in a fun and engaging way.

ACTIVITY: Arrange everyone in a circle or a group, ensuring that everyone can see and hear each other clearly. Ask participants to introduce themselves by:

- Stating their first name. "My name is...."
- Sharing their favorite food. "I love ..."
- Doing a dance move. "And this is how I move..." Example: My name is Stacy. I love pasta. And this is how I move *waves both arms in the air*
- Inform the participants that this activity will require them to recall everyone's introduction.
 - The first person will introduce themselves.
 - The second person will introduce the first person and subsequently introduce themselves.
 - The third person will introduce the first and second person and then introduce themselves.
 - The activity will continue in this pattern until the last person goes, who will have to introduce everyone in the circle before introducing themselves. Encourage the group to help each other if someone gets stuck.

DISCUSS: Conclude the activity by discussing the experience and asking if anyone found this activity helpful in remembering names. Encourage open discussion and positive feedback.

Core Block 1: Welcome to NIJ YPAR

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: The group will learn about the project.

ACTIVITY: Review the slide deck that provides the background for the NIJ YPAR project.

DISCUSS: Encourage participants to ask questions about the project.

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Learn more about Safety 7 at <https://www.childtrends.org/project/centering-youth-experiences-youth-participatory-action>.

Core Blocks 2: Establishing Group Norms

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: To establish group agreements and norms for working together.

MATERIALS:

- Flip chart paper
- Post-it notes
- Markers

LEARN: Explain to participants that we will be working together over the course of a year or more, so we need to establish how we want to work together. It is our responsibility to create a space that supports an optimal working environment for everyone.

ACTIVITY:

- Provide participants with Post-it notes.
- Ask participants to write down three norms for working together on separate Post-it notes.
- Ask each participant to share their norms out loud and add them to the flip chart paper.
- Group the norms based on themes with participants.
- Create a final list of norms on a separate sheet of flip chart paper.

DISCUSS:

- Read aloud the final group norms.
- Ask if participants feel there is anything missing.
- Tell participants that these norms will be reviewed and displayed at the start of each meeting.

Core Block 3: Coat of Arms

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will personalize a coat of arms that represents their identity.

MATERIALS:

- Coat of Arms Worksheet
- Color pens, markers, crayons

LEARN: Tell participants that this activity will give them an opportunity to learn more about each other.

ACTIVITY:

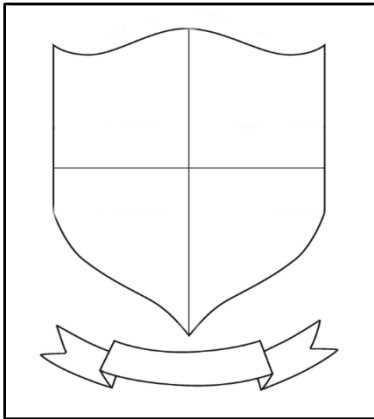
- Give each participant a copy of the coat of arms activity and art tools.
- Explain that a coat of arms serves as a symbolic representation of an individual, family, or organization's identity, heritage, and values.
- Ask participants to decorate each quadrant of the coat of arms with illustrations that represent the following prompts:
 - Something that represents where you come from

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- Your favorite thing
- Your superpower
- What inspires you
- Give participants 25 minutes to work on their coat of arms. Encourage them to be creative.

DISCUSS: The sharing and discussion will happen in the next Core Block.

Worksheet Example



Core Block 4: Presentation of Coat of Arms

TIME: 30 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will share their coat of arms with the group.

ACTIVITY: Ask each participant to stand up in front of the group and share their coat of arms.

DISCUSS: After everyone has shared. Ask participants the following discussion questions:

- What similarities stood out to you?
- What differences stood out to you?
- How might your collective superpowers be used together?
- How might each of your inspirations help you throughout this research project?

Closing Block: Group Name

TIME: 15 minutes

OBJECTIVES: Participants will close the meeting by brainstorming a collective group name.

MATERIALS: Post-its

LEARN: Explain that this is their group, so they will work to come up with a name for their group that represents who they are and why they are coming together.

ACTIVITY:

- Ask participants to write three group name ideas on Post-its.

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- Collect the Post-its and read each one aloud and place it around the room for everyone to see.
- Ask if anyone else has any more group name ideas based on the first round of names.
- Have the group vote on their favorite group name by writing the name on a Post-it.
- Collect the Post-its and announce the winning name. If there is a tie, have the group vote to choose one of the top two names.

DISCUSS: Announce the winning group name and encourage the participants to give themselves a round of applause.

SESSION RECAP & PREVIEW: In this session we learned about the personal identities of each participant. In the next session we will learn about YPAR.