

Topics of Social Science--Freshman Religion  
Connected Culture  
05a "Build Your Ideal Community"

Name:

Hour:

**Introduction:**

1. In a sense everyone in this classroom is a member of many "communities".

a. Let's begin by defining the word "community"

1) Write out your own definition before you consult any resource.

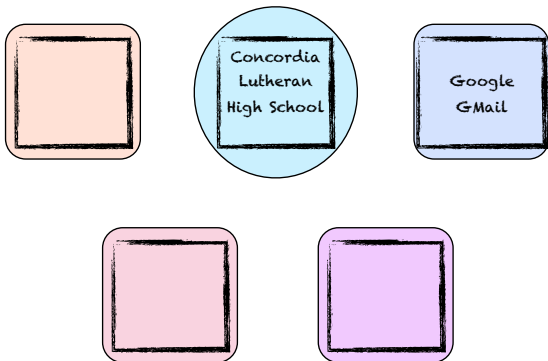
2) Now "Google" the word and find out dictionaries/Wikipedia definitions.

b. Make a listing of the different communities to which you are a member. I will help you with the first one.

Communities to which I belong...

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2. Now make a listing of the different **online communities** to which you belong. I will help you with the first one.



3. Now compare online communities with offline communities.

| Differences: | Similarities: |
|--------------|---------------|
| 1.           | 1.            |
| 2.           | 2.            |
| 3.           | 3.            |
| 4.           | 4.            |

4. What are some examples of how you can be a good member of one of these online/offline communities?

### **Teach 1: Introduce Whyville**

5. Whyville—a virtual city where people can play games, hang out with friends and build a society together.

- a. Click on the following hyperlink to see an example of an online social network called [“Whyville”](#).
- b. Look over the opening page and observe what it tells you about the website.
- c. What are you able to do on this page of the website without signing up and becoming a member?
- d. Scroll down and click on the various buttons that describe the website. For example “About Whyville”, “Privacy Policy”, “Contact Us”, “What Kids Say”, “In the News”, “Teachers”, and “Parents”.

### **Now answer the questions about Whyville...**

6. What are the ways you know that Whyville is a community?

- a.
- b.
- c.

7. What are some positive elements of this Whyville community?

- a.
- b.
- c.

8. What would be the “plus’s and minus’s” of being a part of an online community like “Whyville”?

- a. “plus’s”
- b. “minus’s”

**Teach 2:List Ideas for Building/Breaking Community**

| <b>What are the qualities of a positive online community?<br/>“Build”</b> | <b>How do students break an online community?<br/>“Break”</b> |
|---|---|
| 1.  | 1.  |
| 2.  | 2.  |
| 3.  | 3.  |
| 4.  | 4.  |
| 5.  | 5.  |

**Additional Questions to Answer:**

**9. “Build”**

- What would be the best way to welcome people into an online community?
- What actions can people take to be helpful or provide support?
- How do people make it a fun place to be?
- Whose responsibility is it to make sure the community is safe and ethical?

**10. “Break”**

- What might people do to make others feel excluded?
- How might people be hurtful or cause harm?
- What would people have to do that would make other people leave the community?