I Want You to Know

Materials:

A piece of poster board for each group of participants

Time:

30 Minutes

Objectives:

- To give participants the opportunity to speak out about their own experiences as a member of a group.
- To give participants the opportunity to learn firsthand information from members of other groups.

Instructions:

Decide the ethnic categories to be used on the demographics of the participants. If you do not feel comfortable deciding this, because you do not know how the participants identify themselves, ask the group which ethnic groups they feel comfortable using. If there is only one member of a certain group ask the person if they feel comfortable completing the activity by themselves, you can also offer to work with them.

1. Divide the group by ethnic or other categories such as home state/country, male/female, etc.
2. Give each grouping a sheet of newsprint or poster board.
3. Tell the groups they will have about 10 minutes to answer the following questions on paper:
   - What we/I want you to know about our/my group.
   - What we/I never want to see, hear or experience again.
   - What we/I want our allies to do.
4. When all groups have completed their lists, have the whole group come back together.
5. Explain that each group will take turns sharing what they have written.
6. Review the following guidelines.
7. Each group selects one person to read through the list, however all group members should be present and can help address questions.
8. Remember that the members of each group are speaking from their own experience and do not represent all members of their group. In addition, the lists represent realities for the group members and should not be doubted or challenged.
9. This is a great opportunity to learn from each other. Listen carefully and respect.
10. When each group is done reading and explaining their list, there will be an
opportunity for questions. All questions should be directed to clarify, not to
challenge.

Debriefing:

When all groups have shared their lists, bring the whole group together and process the activity.
The following are a few suggested process questions.
What are your initial reactions to the activity?
Which group(s) do you feel you learned the most about?
Did any of the statements surprise you?
Did you notice any similarities between the groups?

Variations:

This activity can easily be expanded to include gender groups, religious groups, etc. To shorten
the activity or make it focus more specifically on one aspect; use only one or two of the three
questions.

Commentary:

The activity can only be used with an ethnically diverse group. At least two different ethnic
groups must be present in the workshop. This activity can be a great learning tool if participants
are willing to share and to listen to one another.