

MY LEGACY

MATERIALS |

paper and writing utensil

OPTIONAL: internet access
with projector and audio

OBJECTIVES | The objective of this activity is for participants to think about their goals more long-term and the kind of life they want to live more broadly.

FACILITATOR INSTRUCTIONS |

Introduce concept of a “legacy.”

- Ask participants to brainstorm what it means to leave a legacy.
- Share that a “legacy” is what will be remembered of you when you are no longer living. It is about how you impact people around you, your community, and the world more broadly. Although many of us have been touched by the legacy of someone famous, even everyday people like grandparents or teachers, who are not famous can leave a lasting impact on others.
- Facilitators should give an example of someone whose legacy has impacted them—perhaps one person who is famous or a historical figure, and another person who is from their family or community. If it is a famous person ask participants to brainstorm why they think you (and others) admire this person.

Ask participants to brainstorm one person whose legacy has impacted them.

- What about this person has been meaningful or inspiring to them?
- What impact have they had on your life?

Divide participants to share their person with a small or large group.

Now ask participants to brainstorm what kind of legacy they would like to leave. Facilitators can model this by sharing the legacy they hope to leave. Invite participants to write a letter to future generations about the legacy they hope to leave. They are free to be as creative as possible in how they structure their letter. Some prompts:

- How do you want people to remember you?
- What do you want them to say about you when you are no longer here?
- What impact do you want to have on other people’s lives?
- How do you want people to remember you treating them?
- What kind of work do you want to be known for doing?
- Who will you want to play you in the film about your life?

Invite participants to share their letter with two other people in the class.

DEBRIEF QUESTIONS |

- How did it feel to do this activity?
- Share one thing about the legacy you would like to leave.



SUPPORTING MEDIA |

<https://www.michiganlearning.org/goals-and-aspirations/>

NOTES |

EXTENSIONS: Consider arranging for participants to share a picture, clip, or excerpt of the person whose legacy has touched them.

This exercise could be done over multiple days.

OPTIONAL: After portfolios have been submitted to teachers they can ask students for a stamp and a self-addressed envelope and mail their letters to them at the end of the school year as a reminder of the person they want to be.