

ACTIVITY 2: US V THEM

ROLE PLAY

Us Versus Them	
Purpose	To show how quickly division narratives can be created between similar groups
Time	20 minutes
Materials	Two groups on opposite sides of the room

Instructions

1. Split participants into two groups. Assign each group one of the youth personas from the Design a Young Person activity.
2. Remind participants that the two personas were more similar than different.
3. For ten minutes, each group constructs a fictional “us vs. them” narrative highlighting their strengths and the perceived flaws of the other.
4. Each group presents their narrative.
5. Facilitators highlight how easily communities can become divided through simplified or exaggerated stories.

Debriefing Questions

- How did it feel to focus on your group's strengths and the other group's flaws?
- What was challenging about creating a narrative that exaggerated the differences between the two groups?
- In what ways did you find yourselves simplifying or stereotyping the other group?
- Can you think of real-world examples where similar "us vs. them" narratives create division in communities?
- Based on this exercise, what can we do to challenge simplified narratives and seek common ground instead?