**Activity: Education, Immigration and Identity**

**Instructions:** This activity could take 40 minutes to1 hour to facilitate. Please be mindful in choosing 20-30 questions that are relevant to what your students have learned throughout the year. Also keep in mind that you will need to set aside time to debrief the activity. Let participants know that during this activity they will be asked questions that relate to their personal lived experiences and that based on their experience they will be asked to step into the circle. Let your students know that they have the choice to opt out of the activity and or participate and not answer a question they are uncomfortable with. Begin by asking a small group of people (15 max) to form a circle facing each other. Begin by asking a few practice questions such as: Take a step into the circle if you took the bus to school this morning.

**Once folks understand the instructions continue the activity with the following questions:**

1. Take one step into the circle if the thought of graduating high school was never a doubt because of your immigration status.
   1. Many students are unmotivated in high school because they do not foresee a future because they are undocumented. A college education seems too expensive, and a job where even a high school diploma is valued seems out of reach. Many students are pushed out or consider leaving school to help their families financially.
2. Take one step in if your parents did not go to or graduate from high school.
   1. First generation students many times lack role models or the information on how to access or navigate higher education.
3. Take a step in if your parents did not finish middle school.
4. Take one step in if your parents did not go to or graduate college.
5. Take one step in if you have a U.S. ID or driver’s license.
6. Take a step in if you have two pieces of identification that would allow you to take the MCAT, GRE, GMAT or any other graduate school entrance exam tomorrow if you wanted to.
   1. Undocumented students may only have no ID and or only one form of ID (passport, ID from birth of origin)
7. Take a step in if you were involved in extracurricular/honors/ AP classes or any activities in high school.
8. Take one step in if you held a leadership role in high school.
   1. Some undocumented students are afraid to be in leadership positions due to the fear of having to share their status or having the obligation to travel.
9. Take a step in if you can run for student body government if you chose to.
10. Take one step in if your family considers themselves as working or lower class.
11. Take one step in if you think about your immigration status when you think about traveling (domestically, via car, airplane, internationally). This can be for pleasure or for academic and or work reasons.
12. Take one step in if you have the option to study abroad without advanced parole.
13. Take one step in if you are able to pursue any career because your immigration status does not limit you (ex: teaching requires state certification/background checks).
14. Take a step in if your immigration status does not hinder your ability to apply to any paid internship or work-study position on campus or within your community.
15. Take a step in if you have seen a border patrol agent and have not felt scared.
16. Take a step in if you, anyone in your family or someone you know has been in deportation proceedings.
17. Take a step in if you, anyone in your family or someone you know has been victim of a raid.
18. Take one step in anyone in your family or someone you know has been deported.
19. Take one step in if you identify as a male.
20. Take one step in you identify as a black male.
21. Take one step in if you identify as Asian, Black, African-American, Hispanic, Latino or Native American.
22. Take one step in if you regularly see people of your race, gender or other social identity in negative roles on TV.
    1. Undocumented students see/hear negative remarks in the media regarding immigration daily. (“Illegal”, cause of economic downfall, etc.)
23. Take one step in if you regularly see people of your gender in leadership roles.
24. Take one step in if you have a physical or learning disability.
25. Take one step in if you have ever qualified for free or reduced lunch.
26. Take one step in you have felt discriminated against due to one of your social identities (i.e. sex, religion, gender, race, etc.)
27. Take one step in if you have sat in a class and heard negative remarks regarding immigrants, undocumented students, etc. and felt unsafe or attacked.
28. Take one step in if you have been asked or told that you benefited from affirmative action in a demeaning way.
29. Take one step in if you can drive to school, if you choose to, without fearing a police officer stopping you and risk being deported.
30. Take one step in you live off campus and acquired a lease without thinking about your immigration status.
31. Take a step in if you can expect to earn over the minimum wage.
32. Take a step in if you can open a savings account in your local bank with your ID and SSN.
33. Take a step in if you can commit a felony and not be deported.
34. Take a step in if you can commit a felony and not be have your U.S. citizenship or residency taken away.
35. Take a step in if you or your parents have the right to vote.
36. Take one step in if you identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, or intersex.
37. Take one step in if you have the right to legally marry your partner and receive the benefits included in that right.
38. Take one step in if you identify as Christian.
39. Take one step in if you identify as Jewish, Hindu, Buddhist, Muslin, or any non-Christian religion.
40. Take a step in if the religious holidays you celebrate are recognized by the closing of government offices, schools and other businesses in your community.
41. Take a step in if your family has been in the United States for more than two generations.
42. Take a step in if your family migrated to the United States.
43. Take a step in if you have family that was displaced in the United States.
44. Take a step in if you are an immigrant.
45. Take a step in if you are a resident or citizen of the United States.
46. Take a step in if your immigration status does not stop you from applying to FAFSA, scholarships, loans, or any sort of state or federal financial aid.
47. Take a step in if English is your first language.
48. Take a step in if immigration is something that is openly talked about in your educational institution.
49. Take a step in if you have attended or are attending an institution that has resources specifically catered to undocumented students (i.e. scholarships).
50. Take one step in if you are in a mixed status family.
51. Take a step in if you dread the question, what are your plans after graduation not because you are not sure or may not know what route to take but because you are limited and may not have many or any options.
    1. Some undocumented students don’t know what to say or are tired of having to make up excuses or stories on what they might or not do.
52. Take a step in if FERPA means to you more than the privacy of academic records
53. Take a step in if you know what an affidavit is and what it is used for.
    * 1. The Affidavit is a statement that public schools require undocumented students to fill out in which they state that they will file an application to become a permanent resident of the U.S at their earliest opportunity, thus stating they are undocumented.
54. Take a step in if you know the steps and or the time it can take to become a resident or citizen of the U.S.?

**Activity Debrief (15 minutes minimum)**

Give the students a few minutes to process the activity by encouraging them to write initial thoughts, feelings, and or reactions to the questions asked.

**Suggested Questions**

1. Does anyone have any questions on terminology or any of the questions presented?
2. What were some initial thoughts that come to mind during this activity?
3. Was there a specific question that stood out to you or made you feel uncomfortable?
4. Can you share one question that you had never really thought about?
5. What is one question that you connected with?

**Free-write suggested questions (10 minutes)**

1. After doing this activity how does your experience tie into the experience of undocumented students? (Intersectionality of identities/lack of access to education/need of mentorship, etc.)
2. What is your migrant story?