

# The Essence of My Community

## Objectives

Students will understand the following:

- A community has an essence, or feel, about it.
- The essence is the overall impression made by residents, business people, and institutions.

## Materials

Poster paper

Markers, colored pencils, crayons

Web access (optional, but recommended)

Disposable camera

## Procedures

Think about the community around your school OR the community you live in?

1. Answer each question below.
  - a. What sounds do you hear in the community?
  - b. What tastes can you find in the community?
  - c. What smells do you associate with the community?
  - d. What does the community look like? What doesn't it look like?
  - e. What is the community most famous for, or what should it be famous for?
  - f. Where in the community do people go to feel good?
  - g. When is the community most enjoyable? Most annoying?
  - h. Why do people live here?
  - i. How would you change the community if you could?
  - j. What if this community didn't exist? Where would we go to school/where would you live?
  - k. What if the community won an award of many millions of dollars? What could be done with the money to improve the community?
2. Generate a list of **descriptive** words and/or phrases that describe the community (school or where you live).

3. Based on responses to the questions in #1, and your list from #2, write an essay (1 page) about the essence of the community—that is, the overall impression the community makes on you. The *essence* of a community are those things that give it character. Just as each person has his or her own identity, so does a community. This is its *essence*.
4. Create a brochure or poster to accompany your essay. It should include pictures of the different people, places, and things in the community. Your brochure or poster must be in color, and will capture the *essence* of the community. I should be able to see the connection between the essay and the poster/brochure.