

## **Gaining Entry Small Group**

You will have about 15-20 minutes to discuss the following questions and prompts. Take some time to learn about each other's efforts and goals, and try to work together to help build creative solutions. We all have great ideas and goals, but gaining access to the different sites of education, or creating our own, can be very challenging. This group is going to spend some time developing strategies to help you get in the door and make your co-op class a reality.

1. What are the different organizations, institutions, or other non-formal areas that you are hoping to make space for co-op education? Why, and what are your goals there?
2. What are some of the major barriers of entry? How can the group help you think about overcoming those barriers?
3. What strategies can you employ to help you gain entry? Is it the language you use, the program you design? The learning goals you create? Spend some time to discuss some of the different ways you can achieve your goals.

## **Creating a Cooperative Culture Small Group**

You will have about 15-20 minutes to discuss the following questions and prompts. Take some time to learn about each other's efforts and goals, and try to work together to help build creative solutions. No matter what space you are teaching in, one of the largest challenges can be creating a cooperative culture with your students. Not for lack of desire, but simply because we don't have much practice in everyday democracy, developing a culture of cooperation can be very challenging, and, extremely rewarding. This group is going to spend some time discussing some of the ways to create and nourish a cooperative environment.

1. What exactly is a cooperative classroom culture? What does that look like to you all, and what is your ideal cooperative culture?
2. What have been some of the challenges to developing a cooperative culture that you have experienced, either as a student or a teacher? Get specific.
3. What are some techniques, methods, activities, and pedagogical tools that you can implement to create cooperative culture in your classroom or program? Get creative and help each other develop solutions.

## **Developing Cooperative Projects Small Group**

You will have about 15-20 minutes to discuss the following questions and prompts. Take some time to learn about each other's efforts and goals, and try to work together to help build creative solutions. One of the most effective ways to get student engagement, and support from the institution is to develop project based curriculum that builds towards a larger goal and keeps students engaged after the class is over. Furthermore, it can be really effective if you can find a way to build a project that fits into the mission or work of the institution. This group will work on creating project based ideas for your different ideas and initiatives.

1. Take some time to discuss what kind of teaching you all do, or want to do, and the kind of institutions you are hoping to teach in or with.
2. In turn, what kind of projects are you interested in working on? What kind do you think your students would be interested in? And finally, what do you think the institution would be excited about?
3. Take the rest of the time to discuss and develop your project ideas? In particular, think about how your project could extend beyond the life of the class, and what that would look like.