

Expanding Affinity Potential

Four Different Schools Approach to Affinity Groups



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What is an Affinity Group?

The term **affinity group** is used as a bringing together of people who have an identifier in common, e.g. **race, gender, religion, family status**, etc.

Affinity groups are for individuals who **identify as members of the group** and can speak to the experience of being a member of the group from the “I” perspective.

Why Do We Have Affinity Groups?

The primary purpose of these short meetings has been to provide time and a safe space for children of **shared identity** from **different classrooms** to come together in an environment where they **make up the majority**.

Particularly important is providing historically underrepresented or marginalized/minoritized groups a gathering space and a place for fostering pride in one's identity.

[Beverly Daniel Tatum: Why the Black Kids Still Sit Together](https://www.theroot.com/watch-why-the-black-kids-still-sit-together-1819005141)

Turn and Talk:

Turn to a neighbor and discuss the following prompt

What experience(s) have you had with affinity groups as a student? As an adult?

Laying the Foundation:

- How does a school initiate the process of starting affinity groups?

Building Support:

- How do you build support throughout the program and the school?

Challenges and Pitfalls:

- What are some of the challenges schools face in creating and sustaining affinity groups?

Structure:

- What do affinity groups look like at different developmentally appropriate stages?

Q and A:



What are your next
steps?

Next week:

Next Month:

Beyond:

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Resources:

[Rosetta Lee's Affinity Group Resources](#)

From NAIS:

[How Racial Affinity Groups Saved My Life](#)

[Identity, Affinity, Reality](#)

[Online Exclusive: Building Cultural Competency](#)