

# Scaffolding Structure

Sometimes participants may have trouble answering questions or participating in group discussions. The following strategies can help participants to offer answers and share ideas.

## Understanding your students

- Sometimes students have trouble giving answers and sharing their ideas.
- We cannot assume that they are avoiding communication, being lazy, or that they do not know.
- We have to work to teach and support them to answer and participate.
- Use the following steps to support students to learn to share their answers.

### 1 Step 1: Ask Open-Ended Questions

- Can you tell me about your community?
- What do you have in common with the people in your group?
- How are you a leader in your life?

### 2 Step 2: Provide Sentence Starters

- Something I want you to know about my community is\_\_\_\_\_.
- I have things in common. Some are\_\_\_\_\_.
- I have been a leader in my life by\_\_\_\_\_.
- I have overcome obstacles by\_\_\_\_\_.

### 3 Step 3: Share Full Ideas

- To introduce this say something like...“If I was answering this question I would say...” or “Something I would like you to know about my community is that we love music.”
- “One thing that could be said about this is...”
- Then follow this up with another question. “Would you agree with that?”
- “When I think about myself as a leader, I know I have led my career to make sure I am doing meaningful work.”
- “If I were to think about what obstacles I have overcome, I would say I have relied a lot on friends to continue to achieve my goals.”

### 4 Step 4: Use a Word or Picture Board

Write word selections on a dry erase board or piece of paper or print out pictures. Divide the area into two, four, or six sections and write word or phrase options in each of the sections. Be sure to have a section that says, “none of these” or “something else.”

Some examples include:

<b>Friends who help each other</b>	<b>Family who help each other</b>
<b>I want to build a new community</b>	<b>None of these</b>

<b>I lead my life by letting others know my goals and taking action.</b>	<b>I am learning to lead my life</b>
<b>None of these</b>	<b>I lead my life by planning my day</b>

### 5 Step 5: Use a Yes/No Board

Using a yes/no board can include using a whiteboard, or writing the words yes/no on a piece of paper/ post-it note. The communication partner should frame questions in a yes/no fashion. Be sure to only ask one question at a time.