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|  | **Parkway Community ABCD Exercise: Exploring the Implications of Asset-based Community Development** |
| **OVERVIEW:**  The Parkway Community ABCD Exercise invites students to engage in an exercise to explore what it means to take an asset-based approach to community development (“an ABCD” approach), versus a “needs” or “deficit” approach. Students are broken into groups and given a description of the Parkway Community. One group is given a list of assets while another group is given a list of needs. Students come up with recommendations for a nonprofit to engage with the community and then compare and contrast the recommendations. The exercise concludes with an explanation of ABCD principles. | |
| **INSTRUCTIONS:**   1. Familiarize yourself with the Asset-Based Community Development PowerPoint (include link). 2. Read or ask students to read the “Session Opening” (3 mins). 3. Break students into teams of 5-7 people. Split the groups 50/50 into “Group A” and “Group B.” Optional: provide groups with a piece of poster paper and writing device. 4. Distribute a Situation Analysis to each student. Teams in Group A receive Situation Analysis – A. Teams in Group B receive Situation Analysis – B. 5. Activity - Teams review situation analyses and come up with a list of recommendations for a nonprofit looking to work in the community (20 minutes). 6. Report Back – Each group reports 2 recommendations to the entire class. All Group A teams report back until no new ideas are offered. Ideas should not be repeated. (8 minutes). As teams report back, write recommendations so they are accessible as a list to the whole class. 7. Repeat for Group B (8 minutes). 8. Present the ABCD PowerPoint and facilitate a discussion about its applicability to the Parkway exercise (20 minutes). | |
| **SLS LEARNING OUTCOMES:**   * Students will be able to analyze how decisions impact the sustainability of communities * Students will be able to describe how they can use their discipline to make communities more sustainable * Students will be able to develop approaches to sustainability challenges in communities | |
| **TOOL CATEGORY**   * Community Engagement, Introduction to SLS & Creating Sustainable Communities | |
| **TOOL TYPE**   * Discussion * In-class exercise | |
| **AUDIENCE:**   * N/A | |
| **DISCIPLINE**   * N/A | |
| **BIG IDEAS**   * Asset-based Community Development | |
| **KEY WORDS**   * Asset-based Community Development, Community Development | |
| **MATERIALS**   * Optional: Poster board paper and writing tool | |
| **TIME COMMITMENT**   * 60 min | |