

The Art of Community

SEVEN PRINCIPLES FOR BELONGING

Charles H. Vogl



Community Leader Worksheet

page 1

This “next-steps” worksheet is for current or aspiring community leaders. Working through them will help you clarify what you intend to create and how to use the ideas in this book successfully. Remember, no matter how formal or informal your community prefers to be, the seven principles will likely become apparent over time, and depending on how well they’re introduced, they can help or hinder what you want to create.

You may not have answers to all these questions yet. This is perfectly fine. You may find some answers as soon as you look more deeply, while other answers may naturally emerge over time. In either case, knowing that these questions might come up will make a huge difference in creating clarity and strength.

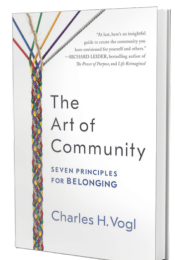
Once you as a leader have completed the worksheet in as much detail as you can, you should have new ideas about your community and how you can strengthen it. The next step is to take those ideas to your members, or to those who you think want to be your members, and ask them for their thoughts. I promise that you’ll be surprised! And you’ll probably be shocked by how much they’ll appreciate an honest, values-based, and welcoming effort to strengthen their community.

DEFINING MY COMMUNITY

Communities must be defined at some level so prospective members can know if they belong.

What is the name or description of our community?

(Example: a community of Bay Area mountain biking enthusiasts.)



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Who is in our community now?

Who do we want in our community who is not yet in it?

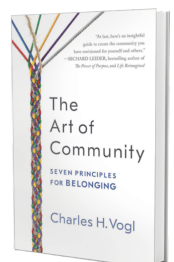
Who should not be in our community?(Really: who doesn't share our values?)

VALUES

What are the core values of our community?

How can we know these are the values?

How can other people (current members as well as people interested in becoming members) learn that these are our values?



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IDENTITY

Who does our community tell members we are? (in any part of our lives)

What does our community tell members we should do? (about anything)

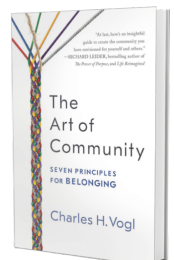
What does our community tell members we should believe? (about anything)

MORAL PRESCRIPTIONS

What are moral prescriptions in our community that are different from those of others (at least one person) in the world?

What and whom do we protect?

What is unacceptable behavior?



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What do we share? (knowledge, objects, access)

With whom do we share these things?

Whom do we particularly respect?

How do we show respect?

UNDERSTANDING

What do our members want others to understand about them without having to explain themselves?

