Understand: Imagining the Future

Continue working on your desired alternative and assess any challenges you may run into.

In this tool, Understand: Imagining the Future, you will imagine the future you desire in relation to your community and your chosen injustice. You will discover what will help you to achieve your desired solution and where they may be challenges.

• Look through the projects shared by other Peacemaking Teams that relate to the injustice your team has chosen to work on. These stories may offer additional insight into how best to identify effective solutions that will allow your team to proceed with compassion, courage, and collaboration.

• Use the Understand: Interview Worksheet to document the current state of your injustice and your desired alternative.

• Complete Understand: Team Effectiveness Evaluation Worksheet to assess how well your team is working together at this stage in the peacemaking journey.
**Understand: Imagining the Future Worksheet**

Use the worksheet to fill in the current state of your injustice and your desired alternative. The current state should be short and concrete, describing the extent of the injustice and who it most affects in one sentence or brief paragraph. In writing a statement about your Desired Alternative, it’s important that you are realistic and concrete, describing how the injustice will be lessened, transformed, or overcome in one sentence or brief paragraph.

On the left hand side with the “up” arrow, list the positive things that are helping you achieve your desired solutions. On the right hand side, list any potential challenges to achieving your solution. In other words, what’s stopping you from moving forward? Refer back to your “Positives and Negatives” work from Phase 1: Choose.

**EXAMPLE:**

Desired Alternative:
- Our school is an inclusive community that treats everyone fairly

We are good at organizing
- Teachers are interested in helping
- There are events that happen nationally and at least one organization can provide funding
- We can use as service learning project

Driving forces helping us reach our desired alternative.

Some students think bullying is ok
- Some teachers think bullying is ok
- We might not have enough time
- We might not have enough resources

Obstructing forces stopping us from reaching our desired alternative.

Current State:
- Students with disabilities are being bullied at school
Understand: Imagining the Future Worksheet

Your name: _______________________________________________________

Your group name: ________________________________________________

Desired Alternative:

Driving forces helping us reach our desired alternative.

Obstructing forces stopping us from reaching our desired alternative.

Current State:
Understand: Team Effectiveness Evaluation Worksheet

Mark how you feel about each statement.

1. Our team has defined purpose and goals.

2. The roles of our team members are clear, and the leadership of the team is balanced.

3. Communication within the team is clear and effective.

4. Decisions are made effectively and collaboratively.

5. Team meetings run efficiently, with clear objectives, agendas, and documentation.

6. Conflict within the team is managed or resolved effectively.

7. Participation of all team members is balanced.

8. Team behavior is grounded in compassion.

Your name: _______________________________________________________

Your group name: ____________________________________________________