



SCHOOL VIOLENCE PREVENTION DEMONSTRATION PROGRAM

## YARN WEBBING VOCABULARY

### Activity Description

Students learn more about a lesson's vocabulary words by making connections between terms as a ball of yarn is thrown from one student to another within a circle.

### Suggested Grade Level

Upper elementary to high school

### Estimated Time to Complete

20 minutes

### Objectives

- This activity is for students to use kinesthetic learning to find connections between words and their meanings.
- This activity can be used to bridge the vocabulary in *We the People: The Citizen & the Constitution*, *Project Citizen* and *Foundations of Democracy*.

### Materials Needed

- Yarn
- Vocabulary written on index cards

### Activity Procedures

1. Each student is given a term that was covered in the unit on an index card (this can be adapted for any subject). First, have students define their term on the back of the card in their own words.
2. Second, have students make a large circle, with the teacher as part of the circle as well.
3. The teacher will hold a ball of yarn, and will read his or her term. He or she will then call out a student's name and pass the yarn, while holding on to the end of the string. The student whose name was called will catch the ball of yarn and must make a connection between his or her term and the teacher's term. The connection can be straightforward or very loose, but some type of connection must be made.

4. Once a connection is made, the student will grab hold of part of the string and called out another student's name. The new student must make a connection with their term to the student who threw the ball of yarn. The new student does not have to make a connection to all the vocabulary so far, just from the student who throws the ball of yarn and their term.
5. This will continue until all students have had a chance to connect the vocabulary. The final throw comes back to the teacher, who makes the last connection.

### **Variations**

- Have the students continue the activity with the same ball of yarn, but they must throw the yarn to a different student. For example, as the ball of yarn comes back to the teacher, the teacher will continue passing the ball of yarn for a second yarn. The goal is for students to see how the same words can be connected to different vocabulary.
- With large classes, have students grouped into circles of five or six and conduct the activity simultaneously in all the groups.
- Use vocabulary from previous lessons.