

# HOW DID WE GET HERE? WHERE DO WE WANT TO GO?

**Time:** 20-40 minutes  
**Age:** All, but esp. 3-8th

## WHAT IS IT?

This is an exercise in which team members make road maps that document the progress, challenges, successes, and wrong-turns that the group has made so far, and where they want to go.

## WHY IS IT IMPORTANT?

It is important to periodically evaluate the group's progress. This exercise allows students to evaluate their teams work by being visual and creative. It also tends to highlight "small victories" and big patterns.

## WHEN IS THIS USEFUL?

This is useful during mid-year and end of year evaluations, as well as when your group is stuck.

**MATERIALS:** Paper markers for all participants, possibly posterboard.

**CORE CONCEPTS:** Accountability, Public Work, Power

**SKILLS:** Evaluation, critical thinking

## BEFORE YOU BEGIN:

- Gather all materials
- For younger students, it may be a good idea to make a generic "road map" as an example for the group.
- Think of categories that you want your team to include on their maps e.g. successes (major and minor), challenges (road blocks), major turns (changes in direction of group or project), things we have learned how to do, things we have learned about our issue, etc.

## ACTIVITIES / STEPS:

1. Introduce the exercise by showing example.
2. Explain that this is an evaluation exercise where students will draw road maps that document the team's progress.
3. Remind the team that they are evaluating the team's **work**, not individuals. That this exercise will help them understand what they have done and if mid-year, where they may want to go.
4. Have students (individually or in pairs) draw maps (10-20 minutes). *Alternative: You can also do this as a group exercise.*

5. Have each student or group explain their map.
6. Discussion (can be evaluation):
  - a. why individual maps were different? e.g. why did certain maps depict different successes/ roadblocks, etc?
  - b. Do other's maps help you think of your group in different ways? How?
  - c. how could the put them together as a collective map.
7. Draw a collective map (if applicable)

**EVALUATION:**

1. Was it difficult to draw the map?
2. Were people surprised by how much (or how little) they have done?
3. Did people include different events, turns, etc? Why? What can we learn from each other's different maps?
4. How did this map help the team understand what they have done?
5. How should we define success in our project?
6. How may this help you determine what to do next (or help teams who want to do similar projects in the future)?