

## Instructions:

The visual organizer will help you reflect on both your networks and the levels of diversity in your networks. Use the chart to record people in your life. List everyone you can think of in each zone.

1. The outer-most circle represent people in the public (or acquaintances).
2. The second (blue) represents social relationships.
3. The inner-most (gray) circle represents personal relationships.

Don't feel obligated to put people where you think they "should" belong. Instead, ask yourself about how close you feel to the person.

*Note: This handout is for your benefit as a reflective tool, so don't worry about how others may judge what you are writing down.*

## Reflection Questions:

*On a separate sheet of paper, write down your answers, then discuss what you are comfortable sharing with your partner or group.*

1. Analyze who is in your zones. Based on the number of people, do you feel your chart is sufficiently full? What are the gaps that you want to improve on?
2. Beyond numbers, consider the quality of support in each zone? Does each area provide you with enough support, closeness, or interaction?
3. Analyze each member of your chart. Why have you placed them in their zone? Why are they important to you or why do you prioritize other relationships more? Are there any people that you'd like to get closer with? Why or why not?
4. Consider the diversity represented in your chart. *The Atlantic* says that geography, education, age, and class make a difference in how people think about and prioritize difference and sameness. You may also consider other categories such as race, culture, religion, relationship/marital status, political affiliation, employment or recreational activities, etc. Analyze your chart for sameness and difference. Where are people different from you?
5. Consider how many people in each level are the same as you? How many are different? Remember that you can define difference in many ways. The goal is to think about how diverse your chart is. Similar people will cause less conflict and be able to offer many shared experiences or opinions for a sense of belongingness. However, different people will offer new ideas/opinions, excitement, new opportunities, and creativity, and will challenge you to learn and grow. They are also often pathways to more new people.
6. How can you improve on your relationships with the "different" people in your chart? How can you cultivate relationships with people who are different from you? *The Atlantic* article also states, "Roughly three-quarters of Americans' interactions with people from another political party happen at work." Can you think of other places where people of difference (race/ethnicity, religion, politics, class, education) interact? Is this a possible way to bring more diversity in your networks?

7. Or, if you've found a great deal of difference already, do you need to seek out more similar people?

