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| **Community Research** | Neighborhoods have incredibly rich histories and are constantly changing. Youth can learn more about their neighborhood through the following assignments:   * Ask youth to research the history of your school’s neighborhood * As a group, read news stories from the neighborhood or join a positive, strengths-focused community Facebook page to stay up to date on current community events. Ensure that articles and web pages are developmentally appropriate. * As a group, connect with community leaders on social media to stay current on community issues and discuss during lessons. |
| **Interviews** | Ask youth to talk to school and OST staff who were raised in the community or have worked there for an extended amount of time. With supervision, ask youth to talk to local business owners, community members, and families to learn more about the community by asking questions like:   * What do you enjoy about our community? * Why did you choose to live in this particular community? * How has the community changed since you’ve been here? What changes have made you happy? What changes have you been concerned about and are you happy about the change? * What makes you proud of our community? * What are your hopes for our community in the future? |
| **Community tour** | If conditions are safe, as a school class or OST group, spend time walking around the community. Introduce youth to:   * Landmarks, architecture, street names. * Community resources (other schools, hospitals, churches, firehouses, police stations, etc.). * Parks or other recreational centers (YMCA, Boys & Girls Club, etc.). |