

HI 404 The Achievement Gap in Schools and Society  
Class-Community Reflection Activity

When doing community-based work within the context of a course, it is important to find time to reflect upon what you're learning through that experience. The purpose of this activity is to help you bridge or connect your community-based experience with the course concepts, specifically concepts of *achievement* and *assets*. What are you observing, hearing, or coming to understand about achievement and the notion of assets? What aren't you seeing? When you're done with this activity, you should have a better sense of these concepts and will also have the beginnings of the achievement and assets sections for your case study report.

For the purposes of this reflection activity, remember that for your Case Study Report we asked you to consider the following regarding achievement and assets:

Achievement

- How does your community partner define and think about the concept of achievement?
- How do they think about the root causes of the “achievement gap”?
- Of the three achievement gap frameworks that we studied in class, from which one does the organization primarily seem to be operating – why; how can you tell?
- How does your community partner know what impact they're having?

Assets

- What are the assets of the individuals who your community partner serves and how are these assets recognized/utilized?
- In what ways does your community partner use or partner with other assets (associations/institutions) to be able to do its work?

Take a few moments to think about the preceding questions. Then, in your project groups, discuss your responses to the following questions:

1. What are you seeing and learning through your experience?
2. What sense do you make of it? What does this make you wonder or puzzle about?
3. What do you still want/need to know and how will you go about learning it?
4. What are you learning about how the concepts of “culture of power” and “cultural humility” are evident in your community organization?

Be sure to have someone in your group record the keys ideas or “take aways” from your discussion for the purposes of including them in your case study report.