The Big Question: How much do our communities shape us?

For many people, family is their most important community. This may include extended family—grandparents, cousins, aunts, and uncles; just immediate family—parents and siblings; or any group of people that a person lives with and has close ties to.

**common**: shared by all

**family**: a group of people who are all related and usually live together

**generation**: a group of people who were all born around the same time

**influence**: to have an effect on the way someone or something develops, behaves, or thinks without using force

**support**: to agree with someone else and offer your help

**DIRECTIONS**: Answer the following questions using the vocabulary words in parentheses.

1. What are the names of the people you live with? (family)

2. What are the ages of people in your family? How many people in your extended family are in similar age groups? (generation)

3. What do you share with your family? (common)

4. How have you helped other members of your family and/or how have they helped you? (support)

5. What effect do other members of your family have on you? (influence)
The Big Question: How much do our communities shape us?

Larger groups of people that we are associated with form our communities. They can be the people in our neighborhood, our school, a club that we belong to, or at the place where we work.

**belief:** the feeling that something is definitely true or definitely exists  
**community:** a group of people who live in the same area or a group of people who share a common interest  
**connection:** a situation where two or more people understand each other  
**participation:** taking part in an activity or event  
**values:** a person’s principles about what is right and wrong and what is important in life.

Elana belongs to a youth group. She is making a brochure for new members, but she is having trouble finishing her sentences. Finish Elana’s sentences for her. Include all of the above vocabulary words at least once.

**Webbville Youth Group (WYG)**

WYG is more than just a youth group. We are a (1)____________________________.

This is demonstrated by (2) ________________________________________________________________.

The members of WYG share the (3)________________________________________________________ that helping one another and being there for one another is (4)________________________________________________________.

If you decide to join WYG, you won’t regret it. Your (5)____________________________________

______________________________________________________________.

WYG’S (6)____________________________________________________________

Be kind.  
Be supportive of your friends.  
Be polite.  
Help others.
The Big Question: How much do our communities shape us?

People who share a similar background often understand each other more easily than people with diverse backgrounds. But through communication, people can learn about and feel comfortable with those from other backgrounds.

culture: ideas, beliefs, and customs that are shared by people in a society

group: several people or things that are related in some way.

history: everything that has happened in the past

involve: to include something as a necessary part

isolate: to stop something or someone from having contact with particular people or ideas

Brian just moved from a small town to a big city. He was feeling lonely. In his town he knew everybody. He also shared the same ideas, beliefs and customs as his small town friends. Here, he didn’t understand the ideas, beliefs and customs.

Brian told his old friend Steve,

1. (isolate, culture)

Steve advised Brian to find others with similar interests as himself so that he will meet people. He said

2. (involve, group)

Brian was grateful for Steve’s advice. Brian understood him because they shared a similar past. He said

3. (history)

Additional Unit 6 Vocabulary

Use your textbook’s glossary, Literary Terms glossary, or a dictionary to define the following terms.

1. oral tradition ____________________________________________

2. a universal theme ________________________________________
3. fantasy

4. personification

5. irony

6. hyperbole

7. dialect

8. character

9. local customs

10. setting

11. folk tales

12. fables

13. myths

14. mythology

15. legends

16. allusion