

DIVERSITY, INCLUSION & ACCESS

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Inclusive Classroom

Digital Divide

A report published in 2019 by Microsoft estimated that 162.8 million people in the US—about half the population—don't use broadband internet, whether because it's unavailable where they live or they can't or won't pay for access (Finley, 2020). The gap between those who have access to steady, reliable internet and those who do not is referred to as the Digital Divide. The divide commonly exists between underprivileged members of society, especially the poor, rural, elderly, less educated, and handicapped portion of the population; and the wealthy, middle-class, educated, and young Americans living in urban and suburban areas.

Group Discussion:

Discuss times when people in the group have witnessed or experienced the digital divide and how it was handled. If you have never witnessed or experienced this, discuss a hypothetical scenario where a divide could happen. *We strongly recommend anonymity and confidentiality when sharing stories.*

Group Question:

What practical steps can you take to help reduce digital inequality in your classroom or meetings?

Reference:

Digital Divide. Encyclopedia Britannica <https://www.britannica.com/topic/digital-divide>

Finley, K. (April 9, 2020). *When School Is Online, the Digital Divide Grows Greater*. WIRED. <https://www.wired.com/story/school-online-digital-divide-grows-greater/>