

1. Participation

Etymology: ‘The act or fact of sharing or partaking in common with another or others; act or state of receiving or having a part of something’, late-14th c., *participacioun*, from Old French *participacion* (13th c.), and directly from Late Latin *participationem* (nominative *participatio*) ‘partaking’, noun of action from past-participle stem of Latin *participare* ‘participate in, share in, partake of; to make partaker, to share, impart’, from *particeps* (genitive *participis*) ‘partaker, comrade, fellow soldier’, also, as an adjective, ‘sharing, partaking’, from *pars* (genitive *partis*) ‘a part, a piece, a division’ (from PIE root *pere- ‘to grant, allot’) + *-cip-*, weak form of stem of *capere* ‘to take’, from PIE root *kap- ‘to grasp’.¹

Suggestions for value-specific questions in VISION dialogues

- In your own words, how would you describe ‘participation’?
- How do you sense/know if participation has been here?
- Is there a limit to how many parts you can divide something into?
- Can something be shared and still be the same?
- Can there be too much participation?
- Is participation something everyone should always take part in?
- How is it possible to grasp what full participation means to society?
- What role does individuality play in participation?
- Can a person be incapable of participation?
- How is participation related to conviviality?
- If participation could speak, what would it say?

Suggestions for exercises and creative activities to inspire a VISION reflection

Group drawing

Duration: 30 minutes

Description: Everyone in the group receives a sheet of A4 paper. Each participant folds their paper in half twice, creating four (4) equal horizontal pieces. Each person begins by drawing a picture of a fantastical creature on the left-hand side for two (2) minutes. Following the time limit, the individual folds the paper, leaving enough visible for the next person to continue the drawing. Complete four two-minute time slots, so that each picture consists of four pieces drawn by four different individuals. After the fourth round, share the results. Talk about how the process relates to participation.

¹ Extracts compiled from <https://www.etymonline.com/word/participation>, last accessed 1 May 2026.