



Adapted by Gregory Peters from “Tea Party” by D. Bambino and Kylene Beers.

The Block Party, made popular during the 1970s, is a public gathering for community members from a neighborhood to congregate and celebrate with music, dance and getting to know each other more personally. Often held outdoors to siphon power from streetlights for the DJ's sound system, the name comes from the fact that the party often involves closing an entire city block to vehicle traffic.

As a large group activity, the Block Party Protocol serves as a primer for text, topic or task.

Consider using it as:

- A team builder for a new group during introductions with a series of quotes related to the group's purpose;
- Prep for a group for discussing a large or deep text with key quotes from the text;
- Scaffolding for a controversial activity using an array of quotes covering a broad range of perspectives.

1. Facilitator prepares quotes prior, by printing one-per-page in a large and legible font and posting them around the meeting room. Choose at least one quote per participant, or repeat quotes. (Adaptation: quotes may be printed on index cards or strips of paper for distribution.)

2. Participants roam the room – mingling with each other as they read the different quotes until they find one that resonates for them. **(~10 minutes)**

3. Participants remain by their selected quotes, reflecting on its meaning and importance for a few moments. **(~3 minutes)**

4. Each participant identifies someone near them who has chosen the same or another quote and takes a few moments to share their quote and reasons for choosing it. Participants repeat this two more times and are encouraged to share with people with whom they normally do not work closely. **(~15 minutes)**

Adaptation (option for use with introductions): each person introduces her partner, her partner's quote and any connections made. (Allow for additional time)

Adaptation (option for scaffolding a text): Form triads; share quotes, and speculate on the purpose/origin of the text. (~20 minutes)

Adaptation (option for use with controversial activities): Form quads, and share quotes, insights, and implications for our work. (~20 minutes)

5. Whole group shares ideas and questions raised by the content and experience. This can be done popcorn style, a round or even a brief conversation. **(~12 minutes)**

6. Whole group debriefs the process. **(~5 minutes)**

Optional: At the end of the session, facilitator invites participants to take an important or inspiring quote with them. Facilitator also may share the source of the quotes, post a link, or share all the quotes for future work.