

Networking

Creating a List of Contacts: Network Mapping

When you start to create a list of networking contacts, think of you already know, and then expand to people you would like to know. To help you brainstorm on your networking connections, you can easily create a visual web of contacts or “network map.” Start with your Venture idea in the center and draw in your personal contacts. Then draw in people you would like to know or people your personal contacts might know that could help you in your Venture efforts. See the Youth Venture “[Sample Network Map](#)” for an example. Below are some ways to start thinking of people you may want to include in your network map:

- Your own extended family
- Your friends’ parents and other family members
- Your teachers, advisors, coaches, tutors, and clergy
- Neighbors and classmates
- Individuals you meet at conferences, workshops, or events
- Your former supervisors and your friends’ and family members’ supervisors
- Members of clubs, religious groups, and other organizations to which you belong
- Local media
- Organizations near where you live or go to school
- Organizations similar to your Venture
- Youth Venture staff
- Youth networking websites such as youthventure.org or takingitglobal.org

Creating a Network Map is a great way to brainstorm about people you already know in your community who may be able to help support your Venture in a variety of ways.

More YV Tip Sheets

Check out these additional YV Tip Sheets:

- [Sample Network Map](#)
- [Networking Basics](#)