





Family Postbag

WORKING WITH PARENTS / GUARDIANS FROM A MINORITY ETHNIC OR WORKING CLASS FAMILY

-  Families with limited or no family experience of higher education will often have concerns about how their son or daughter will get access to support when they are studying in higher education. Often these concerns can relate to specific issues relevant to their family situation and may relate to issues of race or class.
-  **NB** Important to note that not all families who fall within a specific category will automatically have the same questions or concerns – activities like this are to ensure that particular cultural and social needs are addressed.



If you have access to parents try to build up a list of frequently asked questions to use in future staff development events, or ask pupils what they think their parents worry about, or talk to current undergraduate students and find out what concerns their parents had before they came to higher education.



In this activity, you will identify a range of questions that parents from a minority ethnic or working class family may want to ask. You will then generate some possible answers to the questions you identified. Try to think of issues affecting students with different disabilities.

Activity A – Post its



Spend a couple of minutes and get everyone to write down on post its a question or concern that a parent might ask. Explain that the focus is on issues relating to:

- Minority ethnic families
- Working class families

Activity B – Post Bag

Stick all post its onto the post bag – then working in twos / threes choose a post it from the post bag questions and try and generate a solution.

Activity C – Sharing your postbag

Share ideas with the rest of the group. In case there is not enough time for everyone to share the contents of their postbag, offer to write up and distribute everyone's offering.



Why not convert your postbag contents into a frequently asked questions web page.

Postbag



This template can be used to create an acetate of their postbag question and answer.

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