

# WHAT ARE MY PERSONAL AND MY GENERATION'S

## ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND LESSONS?

This is a primarily individual reflective exercise, with opportunity for a larger group discussion or small group reflections. You may decide to have participants fill the worksheet out before attending a large-group discussion, or you may decide to have people work in pairs or groups to fill out the worksheet together. Depending on what you decide, this exercise takes about one hour to 90 minutes.

### PURPOSE OF THIS EXERCISE:

To help participants develop an understanding of the generation to which they belong, and how it has shaped their perspective and experiences.

### HOPED-FOR OUTCOMES:

- Help each individual gain a clearer sense of their own generational affiliation
- Begin to communicate personal and shared generational experiences to others

### STEP 1

Using the worksheet provided, review the Key Events for each decade. These are intended as a helpful guide for you to reflect on the important events over the past several decades. Add other historical events that were important to you – whether you were alive during that decade or not.

### STEP 2

Fill in the following for each decade:

- Your other key events (If you were alive during that decade, or just key events that you remember being told about that decade that you don't see listed)
- Accomplishments you associate with that decade
- Challenges and disappointments you associate with that decade
- And finally, for the decades that have had an influence on your generation, what would be helpful to share with other generations?

### STEP 3

Bring the group together to share their responses, and then answer the questions below about how to share these experiences with others:

- What key events and experiences that have influenced you stand out?
- In what ways have they shaped how you view the world and how you approach your work?
- What would be helpful for other generations to know to better understand your generation? How would you share your story?

## KEY EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY DECADE

### 1960s

- Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee
- United Farm Workers and the grape boycott
- Free speech movement
- Assassination of Martin Luther King Jr., John F. Kennedy, Robert Kennedy, and Malcolm X
- Stonewall rebellion

*Your other key events*

Accomplishments:

Challenges and Disappointments:

What Would Be Helpful:

### 1970s

- Roe v. Wade
- Vietnam War
- Affirmative Action
- Central American Solidarity begins

*Your other key events*

Accomplishments:

Challenges and Disappointments:

What Would Be Helpful:

### 1980s

- Berlin Wall Falls
- Immigration Reform and Control Act
- Anti-apartheid movement
- HIV/AIDS

*Your other key events*

Accomplishments:

Challenges and Disappointments:

What Would Be Helpful:



## KEY EVENTS IN THE UNITED STATES, BY DECADE

### 1990s

- American with Disabilities Act
- North American Free Trade Agreement passes
- Welfare reform
- Anti-sweatshop campaigns

*Your other key events*

Accomplishments:

Challenges and  
Disappointments:

What Would Be Helpful:

### 2000s

- World Trade Organization demonstrations
- 9/11 terrorist attacks
- War in Iraq and Afghanistan
- Hurricane Katrina

*Your other key events*

Accomplishments:

Challenges and  
Disappointments:

What Would Be Helpful:

