





**characters unite**



# characters unite

## WHAT IS CHARACTERS UNITE?



This card deck is part of USA Network's Characters Unite campaign to combat prejudice and discrimination, while promoting greater tolerance and respect. The cards feature questions that prompt players to share and discuss their experiences and perspectives to help shed stereotypes, recognize commonalities and accept differences.

For more information go to  
[charactersunite.com](http://charactersunite.com)



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## HOW TO USE THE CARD DECK

Characters Unite Cards may be used by educators as flash cards to promote class discussion, as writing assignment prompts, or as an interactive game played in groups of 4 to 6 players. It can be part of the Characters Unite Activity Guide or used separately.

The guide and cards can also be downloaded at [charactersunite.com](http://charactersunite.com)



## Card Suits

### **C** Character

Share something about your background and culture.

### **A** Assumption

Consider how you may view other people.

### **P** Perception

Think about how other people may perceive you.

### **S** Scenario

Imagine how you might act in a specific situation.



# Game Guidelines



## GOAL

The player who is the first to answer one card from each category in the deck wins.

## PLAYERS

Game is played in groups of 4-6 players, with a full or half deck per group.



## RULES

- The player whose last name comes first alphabetically starts the game.
  - Players take turns drawing cards in clockwise rotation.
  - Place deck face down in a draw pile.
  - Players have up to 2 minutes to answer each question. **Yes or No answers are not allowed.** Players should include as much detail as possible up to the time limit.
  - After a card is played, the player must lay their card face up in view of the other players.
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- 



# Gameplay Option #1



## WHAT'S MY CHARACTER?

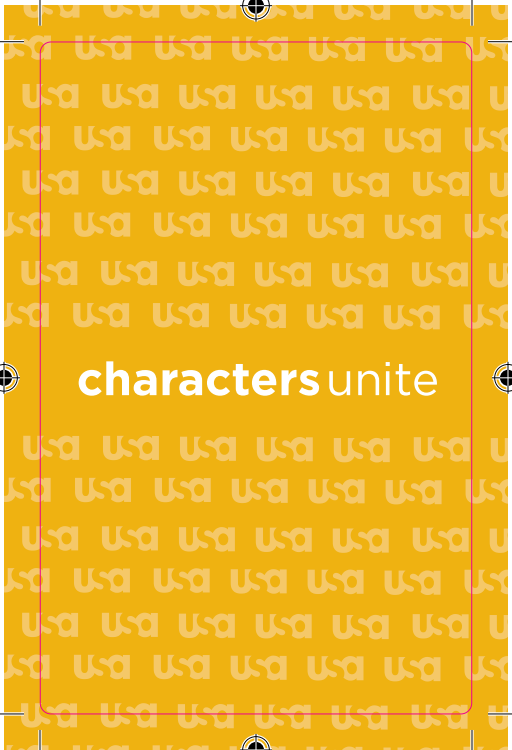
- Each player must play the card they draw unless they decide to “push” a card onto another player or “pass” on a card to discard it without answering. **Each player may push and pass only one card per game.**
  - If a player receives a push card, they must either play it during their turn or use their one pass option. No player may receive more than one push card per game.
  - The first person to play all four card categories wins the game.
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## Gameplay Option #2

### CHARACTER CHALLENGE

- All players start with one card.
  - The first player draws a second card and chooses one card to answer.
  - The player then pushes their unused card to another player.
  - With every turn, players must have two cards in their hand, either drawn from the draw pile or received from another player.
  - Each player chooses a card to answer and pushes the unused card to another player.
  - No player may pass a card to another player who already has two cards.
  - The first person to play all four card categories wins the game.
- 
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**characters** unite





## Scenario

Imagine that someone texts or emails a mean and untrue rumor about your sibling or friend. How would you suggest he or she respond?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine that someone makes an offensive remark about your friend's religion. Would you stand up for him or her? Why or why not?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine you have a close friend who makes a racist remark. How would you react and why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine that you knew a false rumor about a person or group was being spread. Would you try to stop it from spreading? How?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine your friend tells you he or she is being textually harassed.\*

What would you do to help him or her?

\*to harass someone through text messages.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine someone decides they don't want to be your friend before even getting to know you. How would you react?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine your friend invites you to visit their place of worship and they practice a different religion than yours. What would you say?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine you walk by a group of students physically or verbally bullying another student. Would you stop and intervene, keep walking, or go find help? Why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**





## Scenario

Imagine your teacher or coach tells you that you can't do something because of your race or ethnicity. How would you respond?

**characters** welcome. **usa**




## Scenario

Imagine you're standing on a crowded bus and an elderly or disabled person gets on board and no one offers them a seat. How would you react?


**characters** welcome. **usa**



## **S** Scenario



Imagine that your mom or sister finds out that she receives a lower salary than a male colleague with the same job and experience. What do you think she should do?



**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine that you weren't born in this country and don't speak the same language as most people around you. How would that make you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Scenario

Imagine a friend uses the word “gay” in a derogatory manner. How would you react?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Think of a time when you made a snap decision about someone you just met and then changed your mind as you got to know the person better. What did you learn from the experience?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Think about someone you know who is different from you. You don't have to say the person's name. What do you admire most about that person?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Pick a well-known celebrity. What stereotypes might people have about their character?  
How might our assumptions be wrong or damaging?

**characters** welcome. **usa**





**P Perception**


Does your  
sexual orientation  
affect the way  
you view other  
people who have  
a different  
orientation?  
If so, how?

**characters** welcome. **usa**




**P**

## Perception



If you could take  
back one mean  
thing you said or  
did to someone  
in the past,  
what would it be  
and why?



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**P Perception**

Have you ever realized that you have a lot in common with someone that you didn't expect to? What did you discover?

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**P Perception**

Was there ever a time that you stood up for someone who was different than you or someone stood up for you? Describe what happened.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Have you ever  
met someone who  
helped you see  
past a stereotype?  
What did you learn  
from him or her?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Is there someone in  
your life you look  
up to as a role  
model for fighting  
discrimination  
and intolerance?  
Who is it and why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Was there ever a time you really wanted to speak your mind, but didn't think you could? Describe your experience.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Have you ever  
made friends with  
someone even  
though they didn't  
speak the same  
language as you?  
What did you  
learn from  
the experience?

**characters** welcome. **usa**





## Perception

Did you ever find  
people who were  
different and bring  
them together?  
What happened?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**P Perception**

Have you ever  
wanted to ask  
someone about  
his or her race or  
ethnicity, but  
were afraid or  
embarrassed to ask?  
Why or why not?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Describe a  
stereotype  
about your race,  
religion or gender  
that you would like  
to challenge.

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## Assumption

Has anyone ever made an assumption about you just because of the way you look that wasn't true? How did it make you feel?

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## Assumption

Share a name  
you've been  
called - the good,  
the bad, or the  
ugly. How does  
that name make  
you feel?

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## Assumption

Is there a stereotype about you or your family you would like to clear up? Why or why not?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Have you ever felt  
like a fish out of  
water, like you  
didn't belong?  
How did it make  
you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Have you ever been treated differently because of your race or ethnicity? If so, share your experience.

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## Assumption

Have you ever been treated differently because of your religion? If so, share your experience.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Has your gender  
ever worked to  
your advantage  
or disadvantage?  
How did it  
make you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Have you ever  
been discriminated  
against based  
on something\*  
about you rather  
than your merit?  
Please explain.

\*i.e. skin color, age, gender, sexual  
orientation, religion, body type, etc.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**A**

## Assumption

Do you feel like  
your circle of  
friends is  
stereotyped at  
school? How  
does this make  
you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Assumption

Have you ever  
altered your  
appearance to try  
to change the way  
people see you?  
How did that  
make you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**A Assumption**

Do you ever have problems with a family member or friend because of something you can't control, like your personality, sexuality or gender? How do you deal with it?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



**A Assumption**

Did you ever reject someone as a friend because you were scared of what other people would say?  
How did it make you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

Describe a tradition  
your family has,  
that you either  
like or don't like.  
Tell us why.

**characters** welcome. **usa**





# Character

Where were you  
born? Where were  
your parents and  
grandparents born?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

What are you  
most proud of  
about your  
heritage and why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

How is your  
behavior different  
at home than it  
is at school?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



# Character

Describe what meal  
times are like at  
your house.

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

How many friends of a different race or nationality do you have? What have you learned from each other?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

Did you ever have  
a friend that other  
people didn't  
want you to have?  
How did that make  
you feel?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



# Character

Have you made a positive difference in your friends' lives or in your community? How?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



# Character

What is one  
thing you have  
in common  
with your friends?

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## Character

If you could learn  
another language,  
what would you  
choose and why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

If you could travel  
to any country  
in the world to  
experience  
another culture,  
where would you  
go and why?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

Do you consider yourself to be religious or spiritual in any way? If so, how do you express it?

**characters** welcome. **usa**



## Character

If you were being interviewed by Oprah, what is the one thing you'd want the world to know about you?

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