

Now It's Your Turn...

ANSWER KEY

1. In "The Meanings of Community," Thomas Bender argues that communities take many forms.
2. In "The Meanings of Community," from his book Toward an Urban Vision, Thomas Bender discusses the various shapes communities may take.
3. He states, "One must keep an open stance toward the various forms that might [contain]... community. A definition of community must, therefore, be independent of particular structures."
4. Bender characterizes community "as a network of social relations marked by mutuality and emotional bonds."
5. Thomas Bender, in "The Meanings of Community," states that "[c]ommunity...is best defined as a network of social relations marked by mutuality and emotional bonds. This...is the essence of community."
6. While other definitions of community exist, Thomas Bender believes that, "[c]ommunity...is best defined as a network of social relations marked by mutuality and emotional bonds. This network, or what Kai T. Erikson refers to as the 'human surround,' is the essence of community."
7. Bender notes that while towns are often communities, they "[were] not a definition of... community."
8. As Bender writes,

Community, which has taken many structural forms in the past, is best defined as a network of social relations marked by mutuality and emotional bonds. This network...is the essence of community, and it may or may not be coterminous with a specific, contiguous territory. The New England town was a community, but it was not a definition of a community. Similarly, a family, a neighborhood, a group of friends, or a class can be a community without providing a definition of the concept. One must keep an open stance toward the various structural norms that might be contained in a community.