

Borders, Boundaries, Barriers, & Bridges: An Alliteration for Equity
Definition Handout

Borders

- An imposed political or physical demarcation, designed intentionally (or not) to separate, exclude, enclose, insulate, or displace.

Boundaries

- A boundary is similar to a border but may be nature-made or may be human-made. Boundaries can be affective and internalized.

Barriers

- A barrier is an animate or inanimate obstacle. Barriers are positioned (politically, socially, culturally, economically, structurally) to be surmounted towards achieving some anticipated goal and/or outcome.

Bridges

- Bridges traverse borders, boundaries, and barriers. Bridges facilitate or grants access to a place, person, situation, or opportunity.

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