

The Practitioner's Online Community Membership Lifecycle

	Visitor	Newcomer	Regular	Senior	Volunteer
Actions	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits, browses, clicks to register, opens e-mail, clicks confirmation link. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits and participates sporadically. • Responds to existing discussions. • Receives and clicks on notifications. • Explores the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits daily, participates weekly, refers others/shares content, initiates activity and discussions, contributes content. • Resists change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits daily/weekly, contributes weekly/monthly, shares and refers, writes guest content, reminds members of community norms and values. • Highly resistant to change. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Visits daily, organizes events/activities, moderates, contributes content, participates in community decisions. • Shares and refers. • Eager to initiate change.
Time in community	0 - 15 minutes	0 to 6 months	6 months to 2 years	2 - 30+ years*	3 months to 30+ years*
Member Needs	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational. Single-issue resolution. • Resolve curiosity. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Informational/socialization. • Instant reciprocity & gratification. • Acceptance into the group. • Evidence of increasing influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-validation, self-esteem, efficacy, sense of belonging. • Build and maintain a positive reputation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognition of senior status. • Influence and ownership over the group identity. • Strong sense of belonging and affiliation. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Influence/efficacy, ownership, achievement, recognition, improved career prospects.
Sense of community	None	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Limited. • Learning group history, values, and norms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Medium to strong. • Increasingly familiarity with other members, in-jokes, community norms, and references to community history. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of belonging and group identity. • Strong familiarity with many other members. • Full understanding and enforcement of community & identity norms. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Strong sense of community and identification with the group. • Strong desire to impress the group and receive recognition.
Language	N/A	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • High use of personal pronouns, polite language. • Reluctant to criticize other members/ideas. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Declining use of singular personal pronouns (as % of total posts). • Direct language. Willingness to disagree. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Decreasing use of new community language. • Unrestrained opinions. • Direct, but in-line with community tone of voice. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embraces admin language. • More official. • Less willing to engage in confrontation.
CMGR Objective	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Solicit first, active, contribution in a self-disclosure-based discussion. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Guide to habitual participation. • Socialize with other members. • Solicit time, energy, and emotional investments. • Showcase initial influence. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Prick the ego. • Provide increasing levels of recognition, power, and influence. • Foster a strong sense of community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop insider status. • Provide sense of ownership and leadership status within the community. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Showcase unique contributions and feedback on their community impact. • Providing increasing scale of power. • Ensure recruitment of future volunteers.

* Using the internet's oldest communities (30 years)