

Lesson Blueprints: Discussions and Questions

Lesson Title: Conver-stations

Grade Level: Elementary School

Project and Purpose

Students travel to stations to discuss and write their ideas on big paper in response to different questions created by the teacher. They review comments and writings of other students and comment on how their thinking has changed.

Essential Question

What can we learn from each other in small group discussions?

Materials

- Classroom stations
- One question per station written out
- One large piece of blank butcher block paper per station
- Writing tools
- Timer (**Note:** there are many timer programs online)

Procedure

1. Set up room with stations that seat 4-6 students each with writing tools and paper or computers with writing programs. Assign each station a number. Place a discussion question at each station. Determine the amount of time groups will spend at each station and how many rotations the groups will make. It is not necessary for all groups to rotate to all stations, but they should go to at least three.
2. Break the group into groups of 4-6 students.
3. Explain that the groups will visit each station for a set amount of time and discuss the question. Each student must contribute a comment, an opinion, or agree or disagree with one of the statements in the discussion. Each student must write or draw a response to the question on the butcher block paper without filling it up completely. They should leave room for the next group. (Note: This step can be repeated based on the number of groups moving through the stations.)
4. At the next station, they will each choose 1-3 statements on the butcher block paper and write "agree" or "disagree" next to it. They should discuss the reasons behind their opinions. (Note: This step can be repeated based on the number of groups moving through the stations.)
5. At the next station, each student will circle one comment they agree with strongly. They should discuss the reasons behind their opinions. (Note: This step can be repeated based on the number of groups moving through the stations and/or eliminated.)
6. At the next station, the group should review the butcher block paper and write a title on the paper for that station.

