

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.

Conclusion

When the groups have visited the set number of stations, have the students return to their original station and review the work of all the groups. What do they notice? What other ideas did others have? How did their responses to the original question change after discussing the other station questions? If possible, have students select a discussion question and write a journal response.

Options

After set discussion time, have two students remain at the station and the others move to the next station.

Assign each student a number that matches the amount of stations (e.g., 5 stations, have students count off in fives). When it is time to rotate, explain how you want students to rotate to new stations, mixing and matching numbers within the groups.

Notes
