

Lesson Blueprints: Discussions

Title: Overview

Grade Level: Elementary School

Introduction

Classroom discussions give students a chance to think and challenge themselves — and challenge others. Peer-talk develops academic, social, and emotional skills and builds critical and creative thinking, all important for success in college, career, and community life.

Resources

- **Conver-stations**
Make good use of your classroom stations by having students travel to discuss and write their ideas on big paper in response to different questions created by you, the teacher/facilitator. They review comments and writings of other students and comment on how their thinking has changed as a result.
- **Give One, Get One**
Sometimes it's easier to discuss with just one person, but we also want students to be able to hear from multiple points of view. In this paper and pencil exercise, students gather information from their peers on a subject and after analyzing what they have collected write a statement that connects one of their own thoughts with a peer's.
- **Question Slips**
Good discussions depend on good questions. Give your students practice at building questioning skills by having them create a collection of questions and write the on individual slips of paper to use in discussion on a topic.
- **Talking Piece**
Help students focus on a speaker, take turns, and practice respect for each other by holding and passing an object as a talking piece during a discussion.

Notes
