

General Discussion Strategies

Strategy	Description/Notes
Music Mixer	<p>After giving a discussion prompt, play music and tell students to move and dance around the classroom.</p> <p>When the music stops, students will discuss the prompt with the student to whom they are standing closest.</p> <p>https://www.trevormuir.com/blog/class-discussion-strategies</p>
Passing Notes	<p>Have everyone write a question down on a note paper and fold in half.</p> <p>Play music, and once it starts, students begin passing notes around a circle. Then the music stops, keep the note you have and open it.</p> <p>Go around the circle. If each student can answer the question, they do. If not, they ask the whole class.</p>
Jigsaw	<p>Students break into small groups and discuss a topic, then groups jumble so that one representative from each original group remains, and new groups discuss what their former groups discussed, and look for connections.</p>
Save the Last Word for Me	<p>Students write on index cards ideas/questions/quotes that stood out to them from a prompt. Then discuss in groups their interpretations of the chosen ideas, saving the last word for each card writer to explain why they chose it.</p> <p>https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/save-last-word-me</p> <p>Extension for remote learning on this page.</p>
The Pyramid	<p>Students start by thinking about their ideas, then they pair off and discuss, then pairs connect to other pairs to discuss, and so on until two sides of the class share their ideas, and then it goes to full group discussion.</p> <p>https://heynatayle.com/discussion-strategies/</p>
Domino Discussion	<p>Students all share in a circle, and look for patterns in thought before entering a large group open discussion.</p> <p>https://ablconnect.harvard.edu/files/ablconnect/files/01_ch1_resource_domino_discover_e_d.pdf</p>
Affinity Mapping	<p>Pose a question. Students generate responses by writing ideas on post-it notes (one idea per note) and placing them in no particular arrangement on a wall, whiteboard, or chart paper. Once lots of ideas have been generated, have students begin grouping them into similar categories, then label the categories and discuss why the ideas fit within them, how the categories relate to one another, and so on.</p>