

Discussion Map This *Discussion Map* tool is designed for teachers to use to facilitate conversations with students to encourage students to share their thinking and help them make sense of ideas. It is generated from reviewing the literature on classroom conversations.

- **Pose an open-ended (broad) question that has multiple answers and invites students to share what they think.**
 - Prepare your questions ahead of time so that they aren't too leading, but really draw out student thinking. For example, you could ask "What did you notice?" or observe? or note down/underline or highlight and why?
- **Listen to their responses and thinking.**
- **Remember to stay neutral in your reaction.**
 - You or a student might keep notes (graphical or text) on the board while the conversation unfolds.
- **Encourage and challenge students to provide explanations, evidence, or clarifications to elaborate on their thinking.**
 - Ask if others have questions for the responders as you go along -- it doesn't always have to be from you -- in fact, what you want is to inspire a culture of conversation among students with you simply listening and supporting deepened thinking when needed. Suggested probing questions are provided - perhaps write the probing questions on the board and encourage peers to further question one another using the following prompts:
 - What makes you think that?
 - Please give an example from your experience.
 - Was there anything in the reading/problems/tasks assigned that you can cite for supporting evidence?
 - What do you mean?
- **Encourage students to provide alternative opinions or ideas, and react & respond to the ideas shared.** Suggested probing questions:
 - Can anyone add something to that comment?
 - Who would like to share an alternative idea?
 - What do others think about that idea?
 - Does anyone disagree with that comment?
- **Connect back to the main topic.**
 - Can someone help us connect these ideas back with the main topic?
 - Is there any other aspect we could explore as a group?
- **Help to organize and summarize ideas.**
 - Or ask someone to come forward to write on the board or stand up and summarize the ideas. The first person called on can get help from others too.
 - Can someone get us started on building a summary of the ideas that have surfaced in this conversation?