

Discussion Diamond

Accountability Structure for Group Talk

This simple format creates individual accountability for group talk as well as space for group consensus/summary of talk. There is one sheet per table group of 4 students. You can also use newsprint or butcher paper if you want students to have more room to write/draw in their corners.

Directions:

1. Pose an open-ended question to the class that you'd like groups to engage with for about 10 minutes.
2. Allow about 3 minutes for silent thinking and writing time. Each student writes in their corner of the paper. Using the template in this file, students have a bit more room than a post-it note.
3. As students write, circulate and press deeper for students who claim they're done or help others get started who seem stuck.
4. After time is up, give the direction to the class to share out to the group. Each member reads and adds onto what they wrote in response to the question for a total of around 4 minutes. After each person shares, there is some time for other students to ask questions, add on, or connect to what they wrote (and share their corner).
5. After all students have shared their corners, one member records a summary of what the group discussed and agreed on (or disagreed on). Teams work together to help the recorder do this in 1-2 minutes. This portion can be enhanced with specific sentence starters or questions to focus students on the kind of information you prefer to have from each group.

Each table group then has an artifact of individual thinking and notes from the group conversation – only 7-8 pages per class period to review as artifact of student work. This could work as an entry task format or as an exit ticket to synthesize what was learned/discussed that lesson.

Management Tip: If positions in each table group of 4 are numbered 1, 2, 3, and 4, then it is easy to change up who will be the recorder today by simply saying "Number 3 records today."

[illegible]