

Discussion Questions

Lesson Blueprints: Overview

Grade Level: Middle and High School

Resources

- Discussion Organizer
- Focus Fives
- Mapping Responses
- Question Stems
- Snowball

The Discussion Organizer is a one-page worksheet that can be used for homework preparation or in-class preparation for a discussion. It is not a complete lesson unto itself, but directions for implementation are included.

In Focus Fives, students individually write their top five connections, predictions, conclusions, etc. they draw from a source of information. They then share their Focus Fives with increasingly larger groups, each time selecting the top five points from each group discussion.

The Mapping Responses discussion, also known as “Chalk Talk” requires students to write and post their ideas on a topic, arrange all shared ideas, and discuss how the other ideas shaped, supported, or changed their original thoughts.

Sometimes we simply need the words to frame questions. A one-page information sheet includes examples that support the Depth of Knowledge Wheel categories.

Snowball discussions require students to discuss an idea first in small groups and then in increasingly larger groups. One version requires consensus at each discussion point, while another version offers the opportunity to start with a new question.

Notes
