



Skills Featured Student Dialogue Preparation • Designated Listener Activity

Topics Covered Personal History • Identity and Names • Community values

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Dialogue Preparation Questions

A dialogue is a structured conversation between people that is intended to build understanding among the group. It is not a debate or a chance to show off argumentative skills. It is not a therapy session where we all open ourselves to sharing feelings to psychoanalyze ourselves and improve our social skills.

The purpose of our dialogue is to understand what we already know, build our understanding of each other, and construct new knowledge as a group. By the end of this dialogue, you should be able to recognize how your identity interacts with others' identities, and how you collectively make up a community that benefits from the unique identities of everyone involved.

To prepare for the dialogue, please respond to the following:

1. Think about a person who knows the whole story about your name. What might they be able to say about you?
2. What is a story you could tell about the worlds that you belong to?
3. Imagine a wizard granted you the ability to change your name, without paperwork or even telling people (everyone who knows you will immediately have their brains updated to use your new name) → Would you change your name? What would guide your decision to change it? If you'd keep it, what guides your decision to keep it?
4. How much of who you are is the result of your own decisions? How much of it is determined by outside forces?
5. What are stereotypes? What are the effects of stereotypes on your identity?
6. What do you bring to the table in your community? What do other people value about you?
7. What do you expect of other people?
8. How does the media impact your identity? How does wealth impact your identity?

While you might not use each answer, by responding to these questions you are preparing to consider the ways your identity has been shaped. For our dialogue, you might draw inspiration from some of your answers to these questions.

Role of the Designated Listener:

The designated listener will be the timekeeper and main notetaker. This is a monumental task - you should either volunteer for it or let the group decide who it will be. Sometimes there may be up to three designated listeners. The designated listener should always be prepared to participate in the dialogue.

The designated listener will need to be carefully paying attention, keeping time and taking notes on one of the following places along Listening AVE:

ACTIONS Be a reporter. Listen for the Who? What? When? Where? How?	VALUES What are the speaker's intentions that shaped her/his action? What does the speaker care about? What is important to them?	EMOTIONS Notice what emotions are mentioned by the speaker. In reference to who or what? How would you describe the speaker's emotions both in the story and the way they are telling it?

For our first dialogue of the year, the designated listener will only listen for VALUES, and only needs to take notes on that column of Listening AVE. Your job is to listen, take notes, and summarize the responses to create a narrative of the group.