

Conversation Roundtable

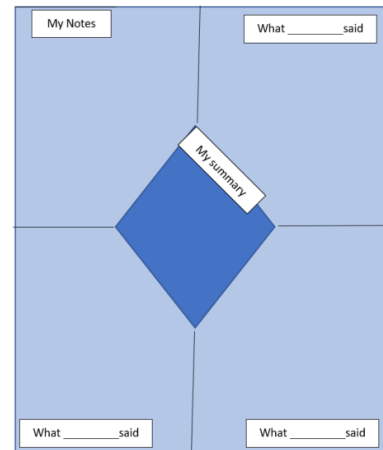
When to use: Conversation roundtables are most appropriate to develop conceptual understandings. Students work in groups of four to read a shared resource or read different sections and need to jigsaw their learning.

Why to use: This protocol gives each student a voice, relies on active listening, and provides the teacher with a tool to gauge speaking and listening in small groups. It also helps to elevate the learning of topic to a conceptual level.

Directions

Prepare a passage to read, a brief video to watch, an audio or recording to listen to. Provide instruction for what to note as appropriate: theme, tone, conflicting ideas, or connection to topic in current unit of study are just a few possibilities.

1. Start with a blank sheet of paper.
2. Fold paper in quarters then fold a small triangle on the folded corner. When you open the paper, it should look like the figure on the right.
3. Label each quadrant with self and the name of each group member. The center diamond is for the student summary at the end of the conversation.
4. Record notes in the appropriate quadrant while reading, viewing, or listening.
5. Take notes in other sections while discussing.
6. Use middle diamond to record reflections at the end.



Debrief

Class discussion shares big ideas and the details that inform that idea.