

CONNECTING QUESTIONS



PURPOSE:

This resource provides a set connecting questions. They can—and should!—be adapted as needed to meet your purposes and context.

NOTES ON THIS RESOURCE:

Open your dialogue or meeting with a connecting question before diving into the topic or agenda.

Good connecting questions should be an invitation for people to be known better in the ways people they want to be known.

These questions should be an opportunity to share something new, break a stereotype, humanize one another, and be the first step toward a deeper relationship.



SAMPLE CONNECTING QUESTIONS

Questions Inviting One-Breath Responses

These questions can be answered in a single word or phrase, which might be appropriate for a big lecture hall or a class that's already short on time—and sometimes one word or phrase is all students need to generate curiosity about one another.

- Can you name one thing that you are newly in love with or passionate about—big or small?
- Can you name one group outside of school to which you belong that is really important to you?
- What one thing do you see happening in the world around you that gives you hope?
- Can you name one hope you have for yourself for this upcoming year / semester / week?
- Can you name one thing you're bringing to this school year / semester, and one thing you are leaving behind?
- What one thing do you look forward to every week or every month?
- Can you name one talent you have that you could teach someone else, and one thing you really wish you could learn?

Questions Inviting Longer Responses

These questions will invite longer responses, so it may be important for you to use a timer to limit each response. That also allows you to appropriately budget the amount of time the exercise will take.

- Can you talk about something you are learning outside of school that you are excited about?
- What toy did you love as a child? Why did it mean so much to you?
- Can you talk about one person you see as a role model?
- Can you tell us about a place in the world that has special meaning to you, and why?
- What object in your bedroom would help explain a value or experience that is really important to you?
- If you brought a really important person to you visit your hometown, where would you take them? Why?