

Student Voice Carousel

Intended age group: Upper Elementary through Adult

Time Needed: 40 minutes

Learning objectives: Participants will be able to identify and agree upon Pillar-based rules; give student voice to creating a safe learning climate.

Materials needed: 6 large sheets of paper, each should have 1 of the 6 questions (see below) written at the top; 6 markers, each one a different, easy to read color

1. What makes a class or school safe?
2. What makes for good learning?
3. What makes a good teacher or coach?
4. What makes a good principal or leader?
5. What should children learn to equip themselves for life in the 21st century?
6. What would you like to see in your school and community?

Overview:

1. Divide the class into six Pillar groups and give each group a different color of pen.
2. Distribute the question sheets on tables around the room or on the walls, and place one group at each sheet.
3. Ask each group to nominate a recorder to write down ideas. Explain that they can choose a new recorder at each station to ensure everyone who wants a turn can have one.
4. Explain how a Carousel works:
 - a. Each group has a different color of pen that stays with them throughout the activity.
 - b. They will have 2-3 minutes (you decide what's best) at each station to read the question and any ideas that are already written there, and then to add their own answers to the sheet.
 - c. They are trying to come up with as many ideas as they can; no criticism of their own or others ideas; ideas belong to the group and HAVE FUN!
5. Once the groups have visited all six stations, explain that they will do a second Carousel to identify the most important ideas on each sheet. You will probably want to give them less time per station during this round, depending on how much is written on the sheets and on your group's reading ability.