



# TEAMMATES CONSULT

*Discussion protocol for reflection*

## OBJECTIVES

- Students will reflect on their experience and connect learning to their classroom and community



## MATERIALS

- Writing paper for each student
- Cup or container for each group
- [Question Bank Discussion Prompts](#)

## TIME

- 30 min

## LESSON INTRO

If a large group circle discussion is not your (or your students') style, use the protocol in this lesson to get students discussing in small groups.

Prep work includes choosing questions from the Question Bank for student to discuss.

## LESSON STEP BY STEP

1. Explain to students that they will take part in a reflection routine with several phases:
  - Phase 1: Introduction to the Prompt
  - Phase 2: Group Discussion (refer to any group discussion norms that your group uses)
  - Phase 3: Individual Writing

The first round can be a practice session if students are unfamiliar with this routine.

2. Students sit facing each other in groups of three or four.

### Phase 1:

3. A cup is placed in the center of each team's workspace. Students begin by placing their pencils/pens in the cup.
4. The facilitator posts, or shows, the first reflection prompt such as *"What is something that you learned while you were on your Outward Bound program?"*
  - This lesson is designed for either the teacher to create their own reflection questions or choose questions from the Question Bank that will resonate with the group.
  - Questions should be broad and without easy answers. If you're using questions from the Question Bank, pick from the *Group and Leadership* or *Extending the Journey* sections.
  - If you'd like a suggested question progression for each round, we included our ideas in the Facilitator Tips section.



5. Allow a few moments of quiet think time before moving to the next Phase.

#### Phase 2:

6. Begin Phase 2 by saying “Teammates, consult.” With the pencils still in the cup, students take turns sharing their ideas and answers to the question. Students should discuss their answers and seek to come to a consensus on the answer to the question—although this is not required. Students should, however, seek to understand their teammates’ ideas if there is a difference of opinion.
7. After 3–5 minutes of discussion (decide how much time is needed based on the complexity of the question and your observations while circulating), the facilitator will transition students to the next phase.

#### Phase 3:

8. Begin Phase 3 by saying “Teammates, write.” At this point, all students remove their pencils from the cup and write the answer to the question in their own words on their own paper. This is an individual and quiet phase.
9. When the students are finished recording their answers, the Phases are repeated with the remaining questions. Repeat procedure for as many questions as you wish.

## VARIATIONS

Rather than having each student end the round by writing their own personal reflection, you could run this activity in a way that substitutes individual reflection with a group scribe that summarizes the big ideas from the discussion.

- a. Students gather in small groups of three or four; **have each group assign a “scribe” for the first round.**
- b. Teacher poses the question (use your own, or questions from the question bank)
- c. Allow time for conversation in small groups.
- d. Teammates should **come to a consensus or summary of their conversation and the scribe records it.**
- e. After this Phase, the **scribe shares out** the group summary to the class.
- f. Before the starting a new round, a **new scribe** should be chosen.
- g. Repeat the procedure for as many questions as you wish.

## FACILITATOR TIPS AND NOTES

1. Make sure you write the questions on the board, or include in a PowerPoint slide, rather than just saying them aloud. This grounds students to the question, caters to visual learners, and keeps you from having to repeat, repeat, repeat.



2. Teammates Consult increases involvement and accountability by having students work in a small group to answer questions via discussion. This protocol encourages all teammates to hear multiple perspectives, seek to understand, or gain further insight for their own ideas.
  3. Here is a sample reflection prompt progression:
    - What is something that you learned while you were on your Outward Bound program?
    - What's more important for a group: getting it done, or keeping group moral?
    - Why do you think some people give up when faced with challenge, while others become stronger?
    - How do you think our Outward Bound experience has changed us as a group now that we're back?
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## NOTES

- **Source:** Expeditionary Learning Protocols and Strategies; Teammates Consult.
- **Educational Standards:** CASEL: Self Awareness, CASEL: Relationship Skills, P21: Communication and Collaboration, CCRS: SL2: Integrate and Evaluate Information, CCRS:SL3 Evaluate Perspective and Evidence