



HOW TO HAVE A CONVERSATION

Lesson Plan for Grades 4-12

Student Handout: Conversation Prompts

1. Perspective-Taking Prompts

- Imagine you and a friend disagree about whether students should have more homework. How would you explain your opinion while listening to theirs?
- You hear someone in class say that one group of people doesn't deserve a voice in a school decision. How could you respond respectfully?
- A family member has a very different opinion about a current event. How can you ask questions to understand their reasoning?

2. Moral & Ethical Prompts

- Is it ever okay to break a rule for a good reason? Why or why not?
- If you witnessed someone being treated unfairly, what would you say or do in a civil conversation to make a difference?
- Should people always tell the truth, even if it hurts someone's feelings? How could a conversation about this be respectful?

3. Civic & Justice Prompts

- Why is it important for citizens to listen to each other in a democracy?
- Imagine you are on a jury, and two jurors disagree about the case. How could you work together to reach a fair decision?
- If you could make one law to improve fairness in school, what would it be, and how would you convince others respectfully?

4. Everyday Life Prompts

- Should schools require students to do community service? Why or why not?
- A friend wants to play a video game during study time. How would you have a civil conversation about balancing fun and responsibilities?
- If two friends are arguing over who gets to sit in a special spot at lunch, how could they solve it without yelling?