

Discussion Passport



Who is this for?

All

Why use it?

Here is a simple strategy to ensure that students are listening closely and actively respecting peers' perspectives.

Bloom's Level Understanding

What is it?

When you're travelling, you need a valid passport to gain admission to other's lands. Another person's ideas are a bit like another land, and it's important to travel there respectfully.

Materials - Discursive Sentence Starters Cards (Clarifying)

Set-Up - Partners

How does it work?

1. **LISTEN** closely, making eye contact and putting mental, physical, and social distractions aside.
2. **PARAPHRASE** your peer's words to make sure that your understanding is clear and accurate, free of additions, distortions, or omissions.

You could start with something like . . .

✿ "If I've heard you correctly, you think / claim / feel that ... "

Thumbs Up or Down

If the peer is **satisfied** with the paraphrase, they put their **thumb up**. If the peer is **not yet satisfied** with the paraphrase, they put their **thumb down**.

Lifeline, Anyone?

The speaker can then try to improve the paraphrase on their own, or call upon classmates for a lifeline – a peer can suggest a significant change that would make the paraphrase clear and accurate.

3. QUESTION

Before you respond to the idea, pose a **question** to learn a little more about your peer's thinking. **use discursive question stems*

Closing

You may then enter the territory of your peer's idea, choosing the thinking move that best suits you:

- ✿ **Build** upon their idea using new insights and evidence
- ✿ **Challenge** their idea by posing a question or providing counter-evidence
- ✿ **Introduce** a new idea or point of view to broaden or deepen the discussion.