

Chalk Talk

Objectives

- To hear everyone's voice in a short period of time
- To provide a way for people who don't feel comfortable verbally expressing themselves to do so
- To generate ideas about a new topic to study or discuss
- To respond to other people's opinions and ideas

Activity

1. Consider the questions you want people to respond to. They could be about their opinions, experiences, thoughts, or a response to an activity or reading.
2. Write the questions at the top of chart paper. A good ratio is one piece of paper for every three people. You can repeat questions if you have only three questions and 30 people.
3. Post the papers around the room or on tables.
4. Provide a marker to every person.
5. Go over expectations for the exercise:

Expectations:

- Move around the room and respond to the prompts on the paper.
 - No more than three people at a piece of paper at a time.
 - The room will be silent.
 - Write your response to the question on the paper. You don't have to answer every question if you don't want.
 - As you move around also read what other people write.
 - You can also respond to what other people write—as long as it is only about their ideas.
 - You cannot correct spelling, grammar, or handwriting or make any comments that are disrespectful. You can use symbols to respond such as ! or ? or ***.
 - When you are finished (you've responded to all the questions that you want to respond to and you've read over what other people have written), have a seat and rest quietly.
6. Allow time for people to move around and do the exercise.
 7. Facilitator also participates and models responses if participants are stuck.
 8. When participants are seated, reflect on the experience and have people share what they learned or something they read that surprised them.