



Activity Interview Guidelines

COMMUNITY CONVERSATION

Investigation.....

Follow the instructions in Climate Change: A Wisconsin Activity Guide for the Community Conversation. But substitute the following investigation procedures and the attached handout for those related to the Revolving Conversation option.

1) Before starting the conversation, remind students of what dialogue is and how this exercise will give them all a chance to practice dialogue and active listening. Let them know you expect them all to take part both in the talking and the listening. If you haven't already done so, hand out the After-the-Conversation Worksheet.

2) Divide the class into groups of three to five. Distribute the handout on interviews. Have each group work together to come up with a list of questions they think they should ask as to better understand how the interviewee feels about climate change

and how it will affect them – their hopes, fears, beliefs, ideas, etc.

3) Now split the class into pairs or triads to conduct interviews. Mix up the groups so they are interviewing people who were not in their first group. Have the members of each pair interview each other – each serving as an interviewer and as an interviewee (in triads, each member takes a turn as an interviewer, an interviewee and an observer). Remind them of their listening skills.

4) Have class members report out, summarizing BRIEFLY what they heard from the person they interviewed.

5) Lead a discussion of the entire group, asking probing questions such as what did they learn, did they hear anything that surprised them, were there any common themes that emerged?





activity Interview Guidelines

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You will be using interviews to learn another's viewpoints about climate change. In interviews, you can really explore another person's thoughts and perspectives. Through multiple interviews, you can learn what a whole range of people think and feel.

Interviews can be designed to:

- Learn about and explore deeply the views and perspectives of other people.
- Create a comfortable setting that allows someone to share opinions without feeling threatened.
- Build relationships and trust with the person you are interviewing.

However, because only a couple people are in an interview, most people in the community are not able to hear first hand from the others. The interview conference combines interviews with sharing others' stories to allow the whole community to learn about each other. Publicly sharing someone else's story other than your own has several benefits:

- you have to really listen and understand the other person in order to be able to describe their perspective
- you can often be more relaxed and less intimidated when explaining someone else's views rather than your own
- you can be very forthright and even boastful when talking about someone else, which may seem inappropriate when talking about yourself

Interviews are not designed to make decisions. Instead they are used to gain deeper understanding and build respect for other's perspectives – providing a better sense of what everyone thinks and all the perspectives BEFORE deciding what to do.

How it works

Within the group, people will be divided into groups of two or three to interview each other. To prepare for being interviewers, participants should think about what they want to know from the other person related to climate change and develop a tentative script to guide their interview. They should also prepare to be very active listeners, asking follow-up questions to really understand the person's thinking.

Once the interviews are over, each person will tell the story of the person they interviewed... e.g. what each thought, feared, hoped, planned to do, and why. After the stories are shared, a moderator can lead a whole-group discussion about what everyone heard – Were there surprises, common themes, areas of disagreement? Is there follow-up work to be done?

Interviewing Hints

- When creating an interview script, start with easier, straightforward questions and build to the harder, meatier subjects. Ask open-ended questions, not yes/no questions or questions that can be answered with one word.
- Use the script as a guide not as a directive... let the conversation flow naturally, but use the script to help you nudge the discussion toward the topics you want to know about.
- Let the person talk. Leave pauses and silence to encourage them to say more. Ask follow-up questions. Ask "why?" or "tell me more?" Don't make assumptions about what they are saying, ask them to clarify and explain.

handout