

Discussion Planning and Reflection Tool



A. Before the discussion (Analyzing and reflecting on the lesson in the teacher guide):

1. What is the question students are trying to answer through this discussion?
2. What is the intended outcome of the discussion? (coming to consensus on something we just experienced? Figuring out improvements to our model? Designing an investigation? Getting students to realize they have new questions?)
3. What are the key elements of the model or explanation you want the students to grapple with? (create an explanatory model for this phenomenon for yourself)
4. What other ideas might students have? What questions might they ask?

B. Leading the Discussion (Considering talk moves and strategies in teacher guide)

1. What will you say to launch the discussion?

2. What are some things you will say to encourage your students to work with one another's ideas?

3. If students seem to think they have explained the phenomenon but you know they need to go deeper, what kinds of questions could you ask to help students see the need to extend or revise their explanations?

4. What will you say to help close the discussion to synthesize what it is you all agree on and/or what new questions you have?

C. Reflection: After the discussion (spend 10-20 quiet minutes writing)

- What ideas and reasoning did you hear? How would you describe the groups' understanding of the ideas you identified in question 3 of your planning?
- What went well in the discussion?
- What was challenging?
- Describe a moment when you weren't sure what to do. What *did* you do and why? And what was the result?
- Anything you would do differently if you could do it over?