

Idea Shop

Purpose

Idea Shop allows students to create and share knowledge and meaning socially and collaboratively. It also encourages students to think critically about the quality of ideas. Students understand the metaphor of shopping, thinking critically about “purchases,” and moving from store to store. This protocol allows them to enter into an “Idea Shop” to buy and sell ideas from their classmates.

Materials

- Numbered or named Idea Shop signs/tent cards/posters/sticky notes
- Idea Shop recording form, one per student, labeled with Idea Shop numbers or names, and with large spaces for recording
- Criteria for a “strong” academic idea—to be determined by the subject matter at hand and the teacher

Procedure

1. Set up physical spaces labeled as “Idea Shops,” each one with a different number or name. The number of shops depends upon how many people you wish to work in a collaborative group.
2. Explain the protocol. Criteria for a strong idea—worthy of “buying”—are discussed. Sets limits for shoppers: 10 “shops” for pairs in a class of 20 students, for example.
3. Students are asked to enter a “shop” at random and share (“sell”) two or more of their ideas on the topic at hand with their partner or group. Students then “buy” whatever idea they think works best or is strongest from the speaker by recording it on their recording form.
4. At your signal, students then move to a different shop and repeat the process until their recording form is filled.

Variations

- In the case of quizzing or practice, correct answers may be used to “buy” some very small token of acknowledgement from the quizzing student: a written star on their paper, sticker, stamp, etc.