

Open-Ended Question Portfolio

Purpose: students to practice using strategies that help to establish rapport, gather information, and increase understanding to build better relationships with people around them. Also encourages empathy, perspective-taking, and good listening skills.

Instructions

- ★ Ask students how they get to know new people
- ★ Design a brainstorm on the classroom board where students can write the strategies to share with others
- ★ After, explain “open-ended questions” and how they can aid in getting to know someone:

Open-ended questions are questions that encourage people to talk about whatever is important to them.

They are the opposite of closed-ended questions that typically require a simple, brief response such “yes” or “no.”

Open-ended questions invite others to “tell their story” in their own words. They do not lead people in a specific direction.

When asking open-ended questions one must be ready and willing to listen to the response.

Open-ended questions should be used frequently, though not exclusively, in conversation.

- ★ Try a couple of practice rounds around the class of using open-ended questioning
- ★ E.g.: Have students that volunteer attempt to ask open-ended questions to figure out your opinion on a popular movie.

Activity:

- ★ Give each student a paper with a traced-out silhouette
- ★ Pair students off with each other (preferably so they don't know too much about each other)
- ★ Their task is to design a word and object portfolio for their partner based on what they have learned about each other through open-ended conversation
- ★ They will host an interview together, take notes, and then work on their portfolios separately
- ★ Provide students with a copy of the brainstormed strategies they came up with in class, along with a list of open-ended questions

Open ended questions:

Would you tell me more about ____?
Can you help me understand ____?
What are the good and bad things about ____?
How do you feel now about ____?
Where would you like to begin?
What do you imagine ____?
What do you want to do next?
What is most important to you?
What would happen if ____?
What do you want to do next?
What does it look like?
How did it make you feel?

End Product Example:

