DISCUSSION QUESTIONS: PROCESSING A GLOBAL PANDEMIC

These discussion questions can help your students reflect on their experience during COVID19, provide you with insights into how they are feeling, and create an opportunity to build your classroom community.

Students can discuss these questions with a partner, in small groups, or as a whole class.

**QUESTION #1**
How did it feel being away from school?

**QUESTION #2**
What were some of the things you enjoyed when you were away from school?

**QUESTION #3**
What were some of the things that felt scary when you were away from school?

**QUESTION #4**
What was the best thing you did during your time away from school?

**QUESTION #5**
What was the hardest thing you did during your time away from school?

**QUESTION #6**
How do you feel about the time you spent with the people in your life when you were away from school?

**QUESTION #7**
How do you feel about returning to school?
TEMPERATURE CHECK:
DISCUSSION QUESTIONS FOR STUDENTS

☐ How do you feel about being back at school?

☐ How do you feel about the new social distancing and safety measures?

☐ What new safety measures make you feel the safest and most comfortable at school?

☐ What's the most challenging part of the new safety measures?

☐ What questions do you have about the new safety measures?
Build a buddy system between grade levels to foster connections amongst small groups of students. Pair advisories or classrooms with a grade in another class for celebrations and community-building days. The whole school can participate at once to create a sense of school-wide connections, while students engage with only one other class in the building at a time. Or, buddy up for reading or homework help!

Dressing up is a fun way to show school spirit while maintaining social distance! Organize a Spirit Week with a different theme each day, or make every Friday a themed day and invite students and staff to dress up, show their creativity, and get silly together!

Start filming morning announcements to share school-wide! Bring students into the process as hosts and contributors to build student connections.

If students can’t gather for assemblies, leverage technology to air a live broadcast instead! Classrooms can tune in as you give out awards, share musical performances, or listen to student speakers.

Your students are a great resource for ideas! Gather ideas from students about how to celebrate school culture while following safety measures. They may have ideas that you never thought to explore, like creating a Tik-Tok-style school dance or using a new platform to connect virtually.

Here are some ideas to help schools create a sense of belonging, maintain school culture, and rethink celebrations and traditions while adhering to new social distancing and safety measures.
Temperature Check: For Students

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT SCHOOL THIS WEEK?

A) This week, I feel like I learned a lot of new things!

B) This week, I learned a couple of new things.

C) I don’t think I learned anything new this week.

DID YOU UNDERSTAND WHAT YOU WERE SUPPOSED TO DO EACH DAY?

A) Yes, I always knew what I was supposed to be doing this week.

B) Sometimes I wasn’t sure what to do.

C) I didn’t know what I was supposed to be doing this week.

WHEN I THINK ABOUT THIS WEEK, I MOSTLY FEEL:

A) Happy

B) Sad

C) Confused

D) Excited

Other ______________________

IS THERE ANYTHING ON YOUR MIND THAT I SHOULD KNOW ABOUT OR THAT YOU’D LIKE TO SHARE WITH ME?


Temperature Check: For Parents

HOW DID YOUR STUDENT FEEL ABOUT SCHOOL THIS WEEK?

A) My student seemed on track and focused.
B) My student had a bit of trouble staying on track and focused.
C) My student struggled to stay on track and focused.

HOW DO YOU FEEL ABOUT THE COMMUNICATION YOU RECEIVED FROM THE SCHOOL?

A) The communication was clear and manageable.
B) The communication was somewhat clear and manageable.
C) The communication was not clear or manageable.

HOW DO YOU THINK YOUR STUDENT IS FEELING ABOUT SCHOOL RIGHT NOW?

A) I think my student is bored.
B) I think my student is overwhelmed.
C) I think my student is adjusting well.

Other: ________________________________

ARE THERE ANY OTHER CHALLENGES THAT YOU OR YOUR STUDENT ARE EXPERIENCING THAT YOU THINK WE SHOULD BE AWARE OF TO BETTER SUPPORT YOU?
Dear families,

This school year, we want to make sure that you have tools and resources at home to care for your family’s social and emotional wellbeing. As we transition into a new school year, we are here to support you and your students as you continue to process the impact of COVID-19 and manage new stressors that may arise as we continue to experience the effects of COVID-19 and adjust accordingly.

I wanted to share a helpful resource about Helping Students Process Their Feelings, which includes tips for communicating with your student and warning signs to look out for that may indicate that students are struggling.

Additionally, I wanted to share with you a library of free resources that you can use at home to practice social emotional learning and care for your family’s mental, social, and emotional wellbeing. I hope these resources continue to support you all year long!

We are always here to support you, and we’re looking forward to a great school year!

Best,

Add sender signature
YOUR MISSION

Your mission is to create a fun, engaging presentation that will make people smile.

You can choose whatever topic you want. Maybe you want to teach people the best way to make pancakes or the evolution of Disney princesses or why grass is green.

Once you’re ready, you’ll share your presentation with your current community (maybe your class or your family.)

You might be wondering how this relates to SEL. The chance to explore your interests will develop self awareness. Your ability to work through the research and presentation process will require self management. You might learn something new about those around you, increasing your social awareness. Finally, you’ll brush up those relationship and communication skills to present!

STEP 1: CHOOSE YOUR TOPIC

Take some time to think about what you want to present. You can choose any topic that you want. You can make your presentation as serious or as silly as you choose!

STEP 2: DO YOUR RESEARCH

It’s time to do your research. Start by writing down everything you already know about the topic. Now use whatever resources you have on hand to learn more about your topic. You can use the internet, books or talk to friends.

STEP 3: CREATE YOUR PRESENTATION

Decide how you want to share your information with the world. Is it a presentation, a song, or maybe a piece of art? Once you’ve made your choice, start to put together your presentation.

STEP 4: PRESENT!

It’s time to share your presentation! This might be virtually with your class and friends or maybe in person with your family. Make sure to celebrate everyone’s hard work when they’re done!