

# Activity Guide: *The Debrief*

## Summary

This guide outlines the different ways to guide a student debrief after a class, dialogue, or meeting of any purpose.

### Purpose

A key part of dialogue is “talking about talking”—shifting focus from the topic to the conversation itself. Debriefs help make this happen, giving students a chance to reflect and learn from each other.

### Outcomes

Students will:

- Share about group dynamics
- Learn different perspectives
- Highlight strengths and areas for growth

## Detailed Agenda

### Framing

*“Let’s transition from this conversation to our debrief. This is when we shift our thinking to reflecting on how the conversation went and what we can learn from it.”*

### Choose a Focus

Depending on the nature of the conversation, choose how you’d like to focus the debrief.

#### 1. Experience – how did students experience this conversation differently?

- a. “How did the conversation go for you?”
- b. “What did you notice about the dialogue?”
- c. “Was there a time that was difficult or uncomfortable for you?”

#### 2. Group Intentions – how did the group do at upholding intentions?

- a. “How did our group intentions support your participation in this conversation?”
- b. “Which group intentions were upheld particularly well today?”
- c. “Which intentions could we still work on?”

#### 3. Learning – what did students learn or take away from the conversation?

- a. “What did you learn about your peers?”
- b. “What might you take forward with you or keep thinking about?”
- c. “What questions are you left with?”

#### 4. Group Shout-outs – invite students to turn to each other for appreciation

- a. “Were there comments or questions from others that you appreciated that you’d like to shout out?”
- b. “Go around and share someone you appreciated today and why.”

**Note:** Get creative with how you structure a debrief! Use pairs, small groups, or a timed go-round.

## Wrap-Up

### Debrief Questions

Wrap up a debrief by summarizing, encouraging, and highlighting connection, hope, and continuity. Your closing words will vary, but here are some examples:

- “It sounds like we have a lot to be proud of, and a few ways that we can continue to grow together.”
- “We agree on some things and disagree on others, and it’s so great we were able to surface both of those things here today.”
- “Even in moments of discomfort, everyone stayed engaged in the conversation, which is very admirable. Let’s keep it going next time, because there’s a lot more to talk about.”