

ACTIVITY 4.1: FOUR CORNERS

Time: 30 minutes

Materials: Chart paper, masking tape, markers

Step 1: Using chart paper, create four posters by writing the letters SA, A, D, and SD in large print. Hang each of the four posters in a different corner of the room.

Step 2: Point out the posters to participants. Tell participants that each corner of the room represents how you feel in relation to a statement about collaboration that you are going to read. The corner labeled SA means you strongly agree with the statement. The corner labeled A means you agree with the statement. The corner labeled D means you disagree with the statement. The corner labeled SD means you strongly disagree with the statement.

Step 3: Read the following statement out loud: “There is nothing more important than collaboration when it comes to teaching and inquiry.” After you have read the statement, ask participants to move to the corner that represents how they feel in relation to the statement. After all participants have moved physically to one of the four corners, ask them to share with a person standing next to them why they placed themselves in that corner.

Step 4: After pairs share, facilitate a whole-group discussion by asking someone from each corner to share how he or she feels about the statement, “There is nothing more important than collaboration when it comes to teaching and inquiry.” Make connections between what is shared in relation to each statement to the content of Chapter 4, Learning With and From Your Colleagues: The Importance of Collaboration

Step 5: Repeat Steps 3 and 4 with the following statements:

- In schools, it is impossible for teachers to find the time it takes to collaborate in meaningful ways.
- The profession of teaching will never change for the better unless teachers collaborate with one another.
- I feel comfortable with taking on the role of teacher leader and leading change based on what I learn as a result of my inquiry.
- I would rather engage in shared inquiry with a colleague than in parallel or intersecting inquiry.
- I would feel comfortable inviting a colleague to support my individual inquiry effort.
- I believe that the hard work of teaching and teacher research will be worth it!