

Activity 6.1: Chalk Talk

This activity was based on the protocol titled “Chalk Talk,” originally developed by Hilton Smith, Foxfire Fund, and adapted by Marilyn Wentworth on the School Reform Initiative and National School Reform Faculty websites. It is a silent way to generate ideas about how your group might share their inquiry work. Please visit their websites (<https://www.schoolreforminitiative.org>; www.nsrffharmony.org) for additional text-based protocols that can be utilized to discuss this chapter.

Time: 15 minutes

Materials: Chalkboard or paper roll, markers

Step 1: Explain to the group members that a Chalk Talk is a silent activity. You can comment on other people’s ideas by drawing a connecting line from your idea to someone else’s comment.

Step 2: Write on the board, “How can we share our work with our colleagues?” and “Who would benefit from hearing about our work?”

Step 3: Participants write their ideas on the chalkboard in writing without speaking.

Step 4: The facilitator can join the group by writing probing comments.

Step 5: After the 15 minutes has ended, bring the group together. Engage the group in a conversation about what strategies might work in your context. Develop an action plan for making your inquiry group’s work public.