
Issue Date: November 15, 2023

Focus Group: Wagon Wheel

Purpose

Use this protocol to familiarize people with the Portrait of a Graduate (PoG) process. It provides a variety of examples to help get people thinking about their own community's hopes and dreams. The Wagon Wheel works best with groups of 14 or bigger, but can be modified for varying group sizes.

Goal

To explore various examples of portraits of a graduate.

Materials and Setup

- Chart paper placed around the room
- Markers
- Copies of the PoG examples. Each chart paper station has a different PoG example. Possible PoG examples are listed below. The number of copies at each station will depend on the size of the group.
 - [Fairfax County Virginia Public School Portrait of a Graduate](#)
 - [Springfield Massachusetts Public Schools Portrait of a Graduate](#)
 - [Blackstone Academy Charter School Portrait of a Graduate and Habits of Mind](#) (scroll down to bottom of page to see PoG and Habits of Mind)
 - [Oxford School District in Mississippi, Portrait of a Graduate](#)
 - [Hawaii Public Schools HÅ Framework](#)
 - [Vermont Portrait of a Graduate](#)

Agenda

This procedure will take approximately 60 minutes to complete.



Time	Description
5 minutes	<p>Directions and Introduction:</p> <p>Wagon Wheel conversations are short conversations with a variety of people looking at different documents. Every round a participant will have a new partner, new document, and new question to consider.</p>
5 minutes	<p>Round One:</p> <p><i>Question to consider: What is interesting and/or compelling about this PoG?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Assign partners to each chart paper station with a PoG example and marker. NOTE: Depending on the room setup this could be on tables in a circle around the room or on the walls of the room. • Partners will have 5 minutes to look at the document and record their thoughts to the prompt on the chart paper. • After the 5 minutes is up, have the partners thank one another for their conversations. One partner will rotate clockwise and the other will rotate counter clockwise. Once everyone has shifted, they will have a new partner, a new prompt, and a new PoG example.
5 minutes	<p>Round Two:</p> <p><i>Question to consider: What are the hopes and dreams for young people evident/communicated in this document? What values does this document communicate?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat the process in Round 1. Have partners look at the new PoG document and record their thoughts to the prompt on the chart paper. • After the 5 minutes is up, have the partners thank one another for their conversations and rotate one more spot in the same direction as before.

Time	Description
5 minutes	<p>Round Three:</p> <p><i>Question to consider: How might this document inform teaching and learning in this school/district?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat the process in the previous rounds. Have partners look at the new PoG document and record their thoughts to the prompt on the chart paper. • After the 5 minutes is up, have the partners thank one another for their conversations and rotate one spot in the same directions before.
	<p>Round Four:</p> <p><i>Question to consider: What resonates with you most about this document? Why?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Repeat the process in the previous rounds. Have partners look at the new PoG document and record their thoughts to the prompt on the chart paper. • After the 5 minutes is up, have the partners thank one another for their conversations. For their final rotation have participants RETURN TO THEIR ORIGINAL CHART PAPER.
5 minutes	<p>Round Five:</p> <p><i>Question to consider: What questions does this bring up about the PoG journey?</i></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Participants return to their original partner, chart paper, and PoG example. Take time to read what others have written. • Discuss responses to the prompt. • After the 5 minutes is up, have the partners thank one another for their conversations. They can then return to their seats
15 minutes	<p>Debrief</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Content: Have participants share big takeaway ideas from their discussions. • Process: How did the Wagon Wheels process work or not work for you? • Transfer: How could you use the Wagon Wheels protocol in your PoG process?