
Issue Date: November 27, 2024

Focus Group: Chalk Talk

Purpose

This protocol is designed for teams developing a Portrait of a Graduate that is aligned to the Vermont Portrait of a Graduate.

Use this protocol during focus group discussions. This strategy is ideal for gathering feedback from large groups of people (community members, students, and/or staff) to generate ideas and prioritize themes for developing a Portrait of a Graduate (PoG). This protocol allows flexibility to either include language from the [Vermont Portrait of a Graduate](#) or allow people participate in open ended responses.

Goal

To facilitate focus group conversations and collect responses from a community partner group.

Materials and Setup

- Sticky dots
- Markers
- Chart paper

Agenda

This procedure will take approximately 60 minutes to complete.



Time	Description
5 minutes	<p>Directions and Introduction:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Divide the people into groups of 3 or 4. • The groups will move through 4 stations and will work collaboratively to brainstorm responses to the prompts. • Post each prompt on a separate chart paper around the room. There may need to be more than one set of stations depending on the overall group size of the session. • Groups spend 10 minutes at each station and then rotate to a new chart paper and question. • Groups record their ideas directly onto the chart paper.
40 minutes (10 minutes per station)	<p>Station Rotations:</p> <p>Each group begins at a different station. Each rotation is timed for 10 minutes. Groups rotate at the same time. At each station, groups read the previous comments recorded and add their own ideas.</p> <p>Station One:</p> <p>As you think about the Vermont PoG attributes, what does “success for all” mean? What parts of the vision/mission strike you as particularly important to focus on? Why? Is there anything you feel is missing?</p> <p>Station Two:</p> <p>Educating for the unknown: React to the quote. As you consider the quote, what ideas/actions should we focus on as we plan for improvement over the next five years?</p> <p><i>“The world we are educating learners for is something of a moving target...Wagering that tomorrow will be pretty much like yesterday does not seem to be a very good bet today. Perhaps we need a different vision of education, a vision that foregrounds educating for the unknown as much as for the known.” Hough, L. (2015). What's Worth Learning in School.</i></p> <p>Station Three:</p> <p>As you think about the Vermont PoG attributes, what does “success for all” mean? What parts of the vision/mission strike you as particularly important to focus on? Why? Is there anything you feel is missing?</p> <p>Station Four:</p> <p>As you think about our students’ lives in and out of school, what is important to keep in mind? How can we best respond to the needs of our students, families, and community?</p>

Time	Description
15 minutes	Gallery Walk Individually, participants walk around and read completed stations. Participants use sticky dots to highlight statements that resonate with them.
5 minutes	Wrap Up <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Thank participants for participating.• Provide an overview of next steps.