

Name of Protocol: Say Something

Purpose: To provide structure for reflecting on a portion of text/information

Time: 15+minutes

Roles: Facilitator/timekeeper, participants

Materials: Common text/information

Procedure:

1. Within the text/information, choose a part for the group (small group, pairs, etc.) to reread. Choose a start and stop point.
2. At the stopping point, have participants take a turn to “say something” to each other about the text. It might be a question, a brief summary, a key point, an interesting idea or a new connection. Other conversation starters listed below could also be used.
3. Conversation can continue with another portion of text or discussion with the whole group or move to the debrief.

Other conversation starters:

- From my experience/perspective as [identity],...
- I'm really nervous/scared/uncomfortable to say [X], but...
- Can you help me understand whether what I'm thinking right now might be problematic?
- I've been wondering about how we are using [term] in this discussion...
- I've always heard that [X]. What are your thoughts on that?
- The author is arguing that only [X]. Can you help me understand that?
- I am having a “yeah, but” moment. Can you help me work through it?
- How does [X] effect relationships between [Y] and [Z]?
- This perspective is new to me, but I'm wondering if it is accurate to say that...?

Ideas for Debrief:

1. Process check: How did the protocol go in our group? Could anything have gone better?
2. Emotions check: What feelings came up for you as you shared or heard someone else's sharing point?
3. Purpose check: How was this a useful way to explore the ideas in the text and to explore your own thinking?

Credit:

Egawa, K., & Harste, J. (2001, January 1). Balancing the literacy curriculum: A new vision. *School Talk*, 35-57.

Conversation starters adapted from “Respect Differences? Challenging the Common Guidelines in Social Justice Education,” Robin DiAngelo and Özlem Sensoy

<https://eleducation.org/resources/sentence-starters-for-courageous-conversations>

Berger, R., Strasser, D., Woodfin, L. (2015) Say Something. *EL Education Management in the Active Classroom: Part 2.*

<https://eleducation.org/resources/general-protocols-and-strategies-from-management-in-the-active-classroom>