The Dialogue Toolkit

Tools to support thoughtful and productive discussions

What: A toolkit of strategies to support slow, thoughtful comments and ideas in online and in-person discussions.

Where: The Dialogue Toolkit is designed to support online discussions on any digital platform, including course platforms or learning communities, online news sites and forums, and social media (e.g., Twitter, Facebook, Snapchat, Instagram). The Toolkit can also be used to support face-to-face discussions or to structure sharing of feedback in classrooms, professional learning communities, and informal learning contexts.

Facilitation: Self-facilitated, or lightly facilitated by a peer, colleague, educator, or parent/caregiver

Instructions: Before responding to another person's post or comment, pause for a moment. Collect your thoughts and consider what stood out to you, what you want to say, what you might say, and how you might say it. The tools in the Dialogue Toolkit can give ideas to help you write more detailed comments that can deepen conversations or help you provide constructive feedback.

Notice: What stands out to you about this person's post/comment? Be specific.

Appreciate: Share what you like, appreciate, or value. Be specific.

? **Probe:** Probe for more details. Ask questions that will help give you a better sense of another person's perspective.

Snip: Cut and paste a phrase or sentence from the original post into your *comment*. Ask a question about it or say what you find interesting or important about it.

Connect: Make a connection between something in the post and your own experiences, feelings, or interests.

Extend: Describe how the post extended your thoughts in new directions or gave you a new perspective.

POV POV: Express your point of view (POV), position or opinion.
("From my perspective..." "In my opinion...")

Challenge: Question or challenge a point of view (POV) or idea someone else has shared.
("Another way of looking at it is..." "Although I hear what you are saying, I see it differently...")

Name: Name the aspects of your identity, experiences, or place you live that are influencing the way you see things.
("I think about this topic from the perspective of someone who....)

*The Dialogue Toolkit is a product of the Out of Eden Learn project. The Toolkit's original development was informed and inspired by thinking routines developed by Project Zero's Visible Thinking Project; educational resources developed by Chris Sloan of Youth Voices and National Writing Project; and research about youth online civic dialogue from the MacArthur Foundation's Youth and Participatory Politics Research Network.