



***Harvard Graduate School of Education  
Project Zero 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Launching Event – “Changing Minds”  
Friday, October 13, 2017***

**Insights/Questions with a “Snowball”**

**Purpose**

Combining the Insights/Questions thinking routine with a snowball activity gives individual participants the chance to capture their own thinking and then to share it with others in the group in a way that enables the group to identify larger issues for discussion.

For slightly different nuances to the conversation, you might also consider variations of Insights/Questions:

- Delights/Puzzles
- Wows/Wonders
- Keepers/Questions

For the sake of this exercise, the important part is making sure that participants have identified at least on puzzle or question or wondering (since the concluding conversation will be focused on one of these).

**Set Up**

*Project Zero thanks Senior Researcher Tina Blythe for compiling these PZ 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary Conversation Starters. (October 2017)*



Let the group know before they begin watching that they will be invited to capture one important insight and one important question when the forum has concluded.

### **While Watching**

Participants may capture notes in any way they wish, or they might decide not to take notes at all.

### **After Watching**

At the conclusion of the viewing, invite all participants to take a quiet minute or two to capture their important insight and their big question.

Then the “snowball” begins:

Invite participants to find a partner with whom they can share their one insight and one question. The pair collaboratively identifies a single question that they think should be brought to the whole group for further discussion. (They might choose either one or the other partner’s question; they might see a way to combine their questions into a single question; or they might come up with a third question that neither of them had asked originally.)

Then each pair finds another pair (forming a group of four). Each pair shares the question they arrived at, and then again, the group of four is charged with coming up with a single question that they think should be brought to the whole group for further discussion.

If the group is large enough, continue to the next stage of the snowball: Each group of four pairs up with another group of four, forming a new group of eight. Each foursome shares the question they arrived at, and then, as a group of 8, they decide on a single, important question that they think should be brought to the whole group for further discussion.

Depending on the size of the large group: You might at this point bring the whole group together and ask each group to share with the others the question that the group has decided upon, taking up one of the questions for a whole group conversation.

Alternatively, you can simply invite the groups of 8 to spend a few minutes discussing the question they have just identified as most important. Then, if time allows, you can invite the groups of 8 to share a headline or two from their conversation.

If you don’t have time for the whole group sharing, you can simply move on to the concluding reflection and invite participants to share their thoughts then.

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