

DIALOGICAL INTERVIEWS

RATIONALE

1) Teaching and learning can not be neutral or objective. It is political. Our own politics are arrived at and informed by our experiences and identities. Sharing these with each other helps us better understand each other and the perspectives and politics we manifest. Hopefully, then, we will feel more comfortable in sharing and discussing honestly and empathetically with each other as difficult issues come up.

2) Dialogical interviews offer an opportunity to expand our own understandings, raise our consciousness about meanings of our own experiences, open us to different possible explanations for things we thought we understood. They may help us see links and commonalities in our experiences.

3) Social identities mediate our realities in so far as institutional and structural oppression advantages or disadvantages, centers or marginalizes, marks or unmarks people by virtue of their real or perceived group membership. However, our individual social identities are not totally determinative of our experiences. These questions will help us probe how our own and others' experiences are incompletely shaped by our social identities and by structural oppression.

PROCESS

- During the conversation, one person is the questioner and the other the respondent for the whole time (20 mins). Then the roles should switch (20 mins). This allows for more continuity and a more organic feel than when participants take turns responding to each question.
- Set a timer to help you make sure you are using the whole time. If the respondent answers all questions before the full 20 minutes is up, sit in silence. Don't switch roles until the 20 minutes is up.
- Active listening is very important! While the respondent is speaking, make sure not to insert your own perspective. Hear and listen.
- Follow up and clarifying questions are appropriate.
- No note taking is necessary during the conversation, though notes and observations afterwards are encouraged.

INTERVIEW QUESTIONS

1. What were your experiences with people who were different than you growing up?
2. What does power mean to you and what is its importance to you?
3. Why did you come to High Tech High? Why are you still at High Tech High?
4. What does home mean to you? Where do you feel most at home?
5. What does luck mean to you and how are you lucky in life?
6. What do you hope for your future?

DIALOGICAL INTERVIEW

Debrief: We will share out as a class, but feel free to jot notes: *What takeaways did you have from your dialogical interview? Did you learn anything new? Could this help build a space for talking about privilege and power with each other? How could this help with project planning and collaboration in the future?*