Troubleshooting Common Challenges

Challenge: Students Won't Talk

Possible Causes:

- Fear of being wrong
- Lack of background knowledge
- Cultural factors
- Personality differences

Solutions:

- Start with low-stakes activities
- Provide thinking time before sharing
- Use written preparation first
- Create smaller groups
- Model vulnerability yourself

Challenge: Same Students Always Participate

Possible Causes:

- Lack of structure
- Comfort with status quo
- Different processing speeds
- Confidence levels

Solutions:

- Use structured protocols (TWPS, etc.)
- Assign specific roles
- Use random selection methods
- Require written preparation
- Set participation expectations

Challenge: Discussions Go Off-Topic

Possible Causes:

- Unclear expectations
- Interesting tangents
- Lack of facilitation skills
- Broad or vague questions

Solutions:

- Provide clear discussion guidelines
- Use focused, specific questions
- Teach redirection strategies
- Post discussion goals visibly
- Practice active facilitation

Challenge: Technology Doesn't Work

Possible Causes:

- Internet connectivity issues
- Platform problems
- Device compatibility
- User error

Solutions:

- Always have backup plans
- Test technology beforehand
- Provide clear instructions
- Have tech support available
- Use simple, reliable platforms