

The Mighty Question Off

This activity both stimulates lots of discussion and gets students out of their seats and moving around. Thinking plus kinetic movement equals great discussion!

- 1) After reading (or performing a task), each student writes two probing questions about the material on a sticky note.
- 2) They pair share their questions with a neighbor and decide upon the question that they think will promote the most productive conversation. That becomes the question they will present for the next round.
- 3) All partners stand up for a Mingle, Mingle, Talk, Talk. Play music, partners march around the room together until the music stops. The closest partner pair to them becomes their next Question-Off. They decide which of the two questions will promote the most productive conversation, for presentation of their next round.
- 4) Gang of Four travels around in the next Mingle, Mingle, Talk, Talk, and so on until the Most Productive Questions have been winnowed down to two.
- 5) Both questions go on the white board.
- 6) Ask a student of your choice to decide which one should be discussed first.
- 7) Have everyone do a brief journal write responding to the first question.
- 8) Whole class discussion begins.

Remind students that none of the other questions have gone away. They can still be brought out during the discussion as the opportunity presents itself!