

Use a variety of discussion strategies

Using a variety of strategies, makes class discussions more equitable and gives each student an opportunity to use their strengths to participate.

- Think, Pair, Share – students work individually, then in pairs, and then in the group.
- Pass the paper – rotate A3 sheets around the room for ākongā to add their responses.
- Framed discussions – share sentence starters or explicit frameworks to scaffold responses.
- Gallery walk or chat stations – students respond to prompts or questions placed around the room.
- Donut – students work in two concentric circles and move one step at a time to share ideas with a new conversation partner.
- Human graph – students share opinions or preferences (not right/wrong answers) by moving to different parts of the room.
- Cafe style conversations – cafe style stations for ākongā to explore and share ideas and expertise. A “host” stays at each cafe table.
- Silent discussions – using digital polling tools such as survey forms, Mentimeter or Padlet.
- Asynchronous techniques – for example, use video response tools like Flip to record responses when students are ready.
- Backchannel chats – add discussion question sheets, voting options, sticky note options, or digital platforms for students to use when they are ready to respond or as an alternative to speaking in class discussions.

Adapted from: [Cult of Pedagogy](#) and [Reading and Writing Haven](#).

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