**“Stronger & Clearer Each Time” Overview** for

Grids, Opinion Formation Cards, Successive Conversations, Continuums, etc.

The purpose of these activities is to help you and others to strengthen and clarify academic ideas. Each time you talk to a partner, you build from the ideas and borrow the language of previous partners. Try to make your answer *stronger each time* with better and better evidence, examples, and explanations; and try to make your idea *clearer each time* by using a topic sentence (claim, main idea), sentences that clarify and support the initial sentence, logical ways to organize and link sentences, and precise words. You can also ask each partner to elaborate, explain, and/or provide more evidence. If notes or visuals are used, their use is reduced from the first exchange(s) to the last one.

**Grid**

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Question/Prompt: |
| Me | *Notes (just two or three key words): (Optionally, put notes here after writing a pre-paragraph on the back)* |
| 1. | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |
| 2.  | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |
| 3.  | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |

**Opinion Continuum**

*(This position) (ISSUE) (This position)*

| | | | | | |

**Opinion Formation Cards**

Quotation D, supporting a different side of issue

Quotation A, supporting one side of issue

Quotation E, supporting a different side of issue

Quotation B, supporting one side of issue

Quotation F, supporting a different side of issue

Quotation C, supporting one side of issue

Each student gets one card, reads it to first partner and explains which side of the issue she/he is on. He/she can disagree with own quotation or use it to support his/her position. This repeats two or three more times, with stronger and clearer positions each time, using or countering ideas heard in previous partnerships.

**Pre- and Post-Activity Paragraphs**

Write your initial idea in paragraph form on the top half of the back of the paper. After the activity, write your final stronger and clearer idea on the bottom half (after folding it to avoid looking at your pre-activity response). Turn the paper over and fold your pre-activity paragraph underneath so you can’t see it. Then write your final stronger and clearer paragraph. You can use your notes from this side to craft the response. After you finish, compare the two responses and notice if and how the second paragraph became stronger (more evidence and detail) and clearer (better language).

**TEMPLATE for “Stronger & Clearer Each Time” Activities**

(e.g., Grids, Opinion Formation Cards, Continuums, Successive Conversations, etc.)

Each time you talk to a partner, you build from and borrow the ideas and language of previous partners. Try to make your answer *stronger each time* with better and better evidence, examples, and explanations; and try to make your idea *clearer each time* by using a topic sentence, logical ways to organize and link sentences, and precise words. You can also ask each partner to elaborate, clarify, explain, and/or provide more evidence. If notes or visuals are used, their use is reduced from the first exchange(s) to the last one.

**First Draft Written Idea:** Optionally, for formative and self-assessment purposes, before talking with anyone, write your initial idea in paragraph form on the top half of the back of this paper.

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| Name | Question/Prompt: |
| Me | *Notes (just two or three key words): (Optionally, put notes here after writing a pre-paragraph on the back)* |
| 1. | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |
| 2.  | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |
| 3.  | *Ideas, evidence, and language from this person that will help my idea to be stronger and clearer:* |

**Student Self-Assessment**

☐ During the activity, my idea became *stronger*. I borrowed and built on ideas from my partners to strengthen my idea (e.g., better or more evidence). How?

☐ During the activity my idea became *clearer*. I borrowed and used language from my partners (and/or texts) to make my idea *clearer*. For example…

**Final Written Idea:** Turn the paper over and fold your pre-activity paragraph underneath so you can’t see it. Then write your final strongest and clearest idea in a paragraph. You can use your notes from this side to write it. After you finish, compare your two responses and notice if and how the second paragraph became stronger (more evidence and detail) and clearer (better language).