

## Small-Group Discussion Protocol

### *For Elementary Students*

For each discussion, assign the following roles:

**Discussion Leader:** Tells the group what the question or topic is for the discussion

**Timekeeper:** Sets a timer to make sure the group finishes on time

**Recorder:** Writes down what the group learns or the big idea from the discussion

**Presenter:** Shares what the group learns with the class (if you are not sharing in a whole group, this person can add the Post-it to the chart paper)

1. The **Timekeeper** sets a timer for 5 minutes.

- **Discussion Leader:** "Our discussion question is [insert topic/question here]. Let's all share what we know."
- The person in the group with the birthday closest to today shares what they think or know about the topic first. Then go around the circle clockwise (the person to the previous speaker's left) to take turns sharing. Use the sentence starters below to help you discuss the question until each person has shared or the timer runs out.

|                     |                                 |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|
| Sentence starters:  |                                 |
| ● I know that . . . | ● What do you think about . . . |
| ● I wonder if . . . |                                 |






2. The **Timekeeper** sets a new timer for 5 minutes.

- **Discussion Leader:** "Thanks for sharing! Does anyone have any new thoughts after hearing what others said?"
- Group members can use the sentence starters below to continue the discussion until the 5 minutes are up.

|                                 |                                        |
|---------------------------------|----------------------------------------|
| Sentence starters:              |                                        |
| ● I want to add . . .           | ● Our ideas fit together because . . . |
| ● I have a question about . . . | ● Something we missed is . . .         |

## Small-Group Discussion Protocol

### *For Elementary Students*

3. The **Timekeeper** should set a final timer for 5 minutes.
  - Group members work together to come up with 1–2 sentences that explain what you talked about.
  - The **Recorder** will write it down, and the **Presenter** will get ready to share it with the class.