

TOOL

Chalk Talk



This product is the intellectual property of Elena Aguilar and Bright Morning.
Unauthorized use, reproduction, or distribution is prohibited.

Chalk Talk

Purpose

This activity provides a structured, silent way for groups to generate ideas, respond to prompts, and engage with one another's thinking. It is designed to ensure that all voices are heard, especially those who may not feel comfortable speaking in a group.

When to Use

Use this activity when you want to gather input from all participants, explore a new topic, or surface a range of perspectives. It is especially useful when verbal discussions are dominated by a few voices or when you want to slow down thinking and increase participation.

How to Use It

Post prompts or questions around the room and invite participants to move silently between them, writing responses and reacting to others' ideas. Maintain silence throughout the activity to create space for reflection and equitable participation. Encourage participants to read and build on others' thinking using written responses or symbols. After the activity, facilitate a debrief to surface key insights, patterns, and surprises. This structure is most effective when prompts are thoughtfully designed and aligned to your purpose.

Chalk Talk

Objectives

- To hear everyone's voice in a short period of time
- To provide a way for people who don't feel comfortable verbally expressing themselves to do so
- To generate ideas about a new topic to study or discuss
- To respond to other people's opinions and ideas

Activity

1. Consider the questions you want people to respond to. They could be about their opinions, experiences, thoughts, or a response to an activity or reading.
2. Write the questions at the top of chart paper. A good ratio is one piece of paper for every three people. You can repeat questions if you have only three questions and 30 people.
3. Post the papers around the room or on tables.
4. Provide a marker to every person.
5. Go over expectations for the exercise:

Expectations:

- Move around the room and respond to the prompts on the paper.
 - No more than three people at a piece of paper at a time.
 - The room will be silent.
 - Write your response to the question on the paper. You don't have to answer every question if you don't want.
 - As you move around also read what other people write.
 - You can also respond to what other people write—as long as it is only about their ideas.
 - You cannot correct spelling, grammar, or handwriting or make any comments that are disrespectful. You can use symbols to respond such as ! or ? or ***.
 - When you are finished (you've responded to all the questions that you want to respond to and you've read over what other people have written), have a seat and rest quietly.
6. Allow time for people to move around and do the exercise.
 7. Facilitator also participates and models responses if participants are stuck.
 8. When participants are seated, reflect on the experience and have people share what they learned or something they read that surprised them.

WHAT'S NEXT

Keep Learning with Bright Morning



Join [Leading Teams that Get Stuff Done.](#)

Confidently lead a thriving, resilient, learning team that gets stuff done.

- Build trust-based cultures where innovation flourishes and cynicism fades.
- Establish clear team purpose that aligns individual efforts toward common goals.
- Turn administrative overwhelm into streamlined systems that keep your team thriving.



And for an entire year of on-demand support, join our [Leadership Lab.](#)

Everything you need to lead a thriving team.

- Transform your thorniest team problems into clear action plans through monthly consultancy sessions.
- Walk away with ready-to-use templates and word-for-word scripts that eliminate leadership guesswork.
- Build trust, distribute leadership, and increase buy-in through strategic approaches.

Curious what this could look like for your team?
Schedule your [complimentary consultation.](#)

