

WORLD CAFÉ: INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE HOST

- Seat student groups at small Café-style tables or in conversation and ask 1-2 visitors to join each group of students.
- Set up progressive (at least three) rounds of conversation, approximately 20 minutes each.
- Student should be encouraged to use this time to share their idea with the visitor, and be open to answering questions, hearing about 'holes' in their plan, and having trouble-shooting style discussions.
- Encourage participants to write, doodle and draw key ideas on their butcher's paper (and/or note key ideas on large index cards or placemats in the centre of the table).
- Upon completing the initial round of conversation, ask one the group of students to remain at the table as a "table hosts" for the next round, while the visitors move to a different table to start a new conversation.
- Providing opportunities for people to move in several rounds of conversation, allows ideas, questions, and themes begin to link and connect. It also allows students to refine their ideas each time they share them with a new visitor. At the end of the second or third round, all of the tables or conversation clusters in the room will be cross-pollinated with insights from prior conversations.
- In the last round of conversation, people can return to their first table to synthesise their discoveries, or they may continue traveling to new tables.
- After at least three rounds of conversation, initiate a period of sharing discoveries and insights in a whole group conversation. It is in these town meeting-style conversations that patterns can be identified, collective knowledge grows, and possibilities for action emerge.

Once you know what you want to achieve and the amount of time you have to work with, you can decide the appropriate number and length of conversation rounds, and the most interesting ways to connect and cross-pollinate ideas.