



Running a Focus Group



Plan your questions first!

6-8 students, or

4-6 staff

Around 30-40 minutes

Person 1: questioner

Person 2: note-taker

Person 3 (optional): observer,
timekeeper, additional questions.

Use Think-Pair-Share

Capture data, don't analyse it!

Qualitative and Quantitative

Be objective but open & curious

Example Focus Group Questions

- What are you learning?
- How well are you doing?
- How do you know?

- Is your work challenging/easy? In what way?
- How could teachers challenge you even more?
- What happens if you make a mistake?
- What do you do if you get stuck?

- How often do you listen / how often do you talk?
- Can you give an example of how dialogue with another student has helped improve your work?



Plan your questions.

Create 5-10 initiate questions (what are you aiming to find out?)

Plan follow-up questions to:

- Get more voices
- Extend the answers
- Clarify the thinking
- Get more reasons
- Transfer to other contexts
- Make connections



What questions could you ask students to find out more about their learning experiences?

Remember. You are looking to build an understanding of *patterns* of practice around the school.