

The Scope of Research Questions and Conversations Module

In-class Activity

Strategies for Navigating Conversations: Mini Peer-Review

In Class Preparation: Create a Google doc and share it with your partner. Both of you should paste your online activity from Video 3 into the doc. After you have prepared the doc, figure out how much total time you have to complete the activity and divide the time so that you spend an equal amount of time on the project of each partner.

Go through the following steps as each of you receives comments as the researcher:

1. Read through each other's brainstorming plans.
2. Ask the researcher for clarification on any parts of the brainstorming plan you do not understand clearly from reading the plan. The researcher can also talk briefly about the results and provide any additional information about his or her current research situation that seems relevant.
3. The commenter will answer the following questions for the researcher. Copy and paste these questions into a word processing document on your laptop in order to compose your responses. When you are done, paste the questions and your responses into the Google doc.
 - A. What do you think is the best strategy or part of the researcher's brainstorming plan? Why do you think that strategy will be successful?
 - B. What do you think is the strategy or part of the researcher's brainstorming plan that is least likely to be successful? Why do you think it is less likely to be helpful?
 - C. What strategies should the researcher use that are not mentioned in the plan? Why do you think they would be useful?
 - D. Answer at least one of the researcher's direct questions.

When you are the researcher, you should continue to work on your searches and/or reading an initial source as your partner answers the questions above.

4. In the time remaining for that researcher, have a brief discussion in which you brainstorm what the next steps for the researcher should be. If you are the researcher, you should take notes of key points in the discussion and also share briefly with your partner any new relevant discoveries you made while they were reviewing your plan.

Switch roles and repeat the four steps above.

Class Discussion: After work in pairs is completed, be prepared to discuss your evaluation of research strategies in an all-class discussion.

