

TIPS AND STRATEGIES FOR A QUALITY EXPERIENCE ON THE ULTIMATE DIALOGUE ADVENTURE

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INTRODUCTION

The Ultimate Dialogue Adventure is a wonderful opportunity for young people ages 13-17 to dialogue with peers from all over the world about important global topics. It is also a platform that educators can easily use to help teach communication skills and topic knowledge in the classroom or as an extra-curricular activity. Use these tips and strategies below to support you in making sure your learners have a quality learning experience.

BEFORE USING THE PLATFORM

Clarify what the platform is for and what you want learners to do by setting expectations and objectives. It is important for learners to know from the start what the platform is, why you want them to use it, and how you want them to use it.

- 1. Start by explaining what the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure (UDA) is and <u>how it</u> <u>works.</u>
- 2. Next, explain how using the platform is connected to the greater purpose of your class or subject. For example: 'The UDA will help you to be a better communicator' or 'The UDA will give you a space to talk with your peers to explore climate change and its impact on people in other parts of the world'
- 3. Give 1-3 key objectives that you want learners to develop by participating on the UDA, for example:
- You will be able to share about your own personal experiences on climate change by speaking from the 'l' perspective.
- You will learn how to construct questions that directly respond to what you hear other people share to go deeper in the conversation.
- You will listen for and identify something you did not know from a post you read and think about how this is similar or different from your own life, then write a response about what you learned from them.

MAKE SURE LEARNERS KNOW THE COMMUNITY RULES

Before you have learners get on the platform, make sure they understand that this is a live global community of real people. It is important that they are considerate and respectful of each other and the dialogue space. One way you can do this is by talking with them about the <u>community rules</u>, or asking them to review the rules in groups and report back to you with one rule that really stood out to them and why.

In addition, please reinforce that participation in the UDA is not about gaining points, and that only posting gibberish like 'sjdfodjkgnnnn' or copy and pasting comments multiple times to get points is dishonest. This behaviour does not reflect dialogue and Generation Global will contact them and possibly block their account if they do not follow the rules of the community by using good dialogue.

EXPLAIN THE SKILLS OF DIALOGUE

If you have not planned to already, make sure that you take some time to go over the five core skills of dialogue with learners and make it clear that the purpose of using the Ultimate Dialogue Adventure is to learn and practise these skills. You can use the <u>Character Titles page</u> to review the skills and their learning objectives. There are also some great activities for practising the skills from our <u>Essentials of Dialogue</u> curriculum and in the Introduction to Dialogue professional development course on our <u>Teacher</u> <u>Portal.</u>



Global Communication



Active Listening



Critical Thinking



Asking Questions



WHILE USING THE PLATFORM

Remind learners what good dialogue looks like. Sometimes if learners are just beginning to be exposed to dialogue they may not know what good dialogue is. Even if a person has been practising dialogue for quite some time, they should also be reminded. Take some time out before learners begin or even a second time while they are participating on the platform to show them examples of good dialogue. You can also remind them that the dialogues that are pinned at the top of each dialogue space are there because they were selected by our moderation team as a good example!

Use these posts as examples you might use with learners:

Dialogue Amoeba

I've been finding it difficult to fit in with other buddy "groups" who don't have the same lifestyle as myself. Since of this, I avoid them because I disagree with them on a certain subject. But on the other hand, despite the fact that our ideologies differ, I want to blend in with them, understand their viewpoint, and make friends with them. Do any of you have any recommendations? or do you encounter the same issues?

This learner shared and explained their own experience first to give the reader some context, then they asked a question that cannot only be answered with yes or no but seeks different perspectives.

Dialogue Bull Frog

The aspect of my culture that keeps me motivated always is that you need to treat those around you as you expect them to treat you. This makes me feel open since I don not know when I might need someone's help

This learner has shared a personal example, explains specifically what they mean and how they feel.

HELP LEARNERS STAY ACCOUNTABLE

While learners are using the platform, whether it is during class or on their own time, there are a few ways you can help them stay accountable to conducting good dialogue and following the community rules.

- Set a few check-in points so you can learn about their experiences. You can distribute the <u>What Went Well/Even Better If worksheet</u> once or twice during the time you have them using the platform and ask them to complete it and share it back with you. You might also have them discuss their experiences in small groups and have each group share back discussion notes with you.
- Revisit the core skills periodically by dropping tips in a WhatsApp group for each of the skills. It would be even better if you can ask them to share with the group their own top tips for using different dialogue skills.
- Remind learners to check their emails to look for our Generation Global reminders. This might include important communications about their participation on the platform and tips and opportunities from us!
- Lastly and most importantly, ask learners to focus on and share their own personal achievements and challenges in the dialogue (not the game). The Ultimate Dialogue Adventure was created with points, badges, and character titles to add a bit of fun, but the most important part of the experience is what participants are learning from each other and how they are communicating.



WHEN IN DOUBT

Generation Global is a tool that is intended to support educators and learners in learning and using the skills of dialogue. If you or your learners ever have a question or would like to find ways to further and deepen the practise of dialogue, please just reach out to us!

Our team at Generation Global is always happy to work with your learning community to ensure that you are having an enriching and positive experience.



