

Conversation Calendars

In order to help me get to know you better and to increase our daily communication, we are going to use a tool called "Conversation Calendars." A conversation calendar is a tool that can help me uncover your strengths and passions which will help me better connect the work we do in class with your real world lives.

Every time we meet, you are going to get your conversation calendar out of the calendar box, and respond to any of the following options for that particular date:

- * Something about yourself
- * Ask me something about myself
- * Ask a question you don't want to ask in front of the class
- * Vent about something that is bothering you
- * Think out loud on paper about something

In the small box in the bottom corner, assign yourself points on a scale from 0-20 for your preparation for class, participation during class, and your contribution to the class (i.e. helping a neighbor, asking a question, refraining from having a side conversation, etc.)

In my responses, I will often ask you questions about the way you read and listen to information. I am looking for the strategies you use or don't know yet, so I know what I need to model during my instruction and can plan accordingly based on your particular needs. For example, I might ask, "What strategies do you use to get yourself unstuck?" or "What is hard for you when it comes to reading?"

I may also ask you to summarize what you learned at the end of the class as a way of checking your understanding of the content we have covered that day. Or, I might ask you to make a connection between what we have learned and your life outside of school. The possibilities are endless and will change throughout the year depending on what information I am looking for at the time.