



Giving Voice to Photos

Adapted from "Community Conversations" by Paul Born

Things to do Ahead of Time:

- ✓ Choose a theme that you would like to focus on through photography. This can be anything that might be important to you and your community. Some ideas are: leadership, healthy choices, communication, inclusion, or friendship.
- ✓ Choose a time and location.
- ✓ Advertise and send out invitations. Ask people to prepare for this activity by taking photographs that depict the topic you have chosen. These photos could be of anything, not just people. Allow your participants to use their creativity to find positive qualities where they may not have seen them before. Ask people to bring hard copies of these photos to the activity.
- ✓ You may wish to offer disposable cameras to families who do not have access to their own camera.

Recommended Time: Evening or weekend; allow at least two hours for this activity

Recommended Location: School classroom or library

Recommended Materials:

- ✓ Disposable cameras
- ✓ Poster board
- ✓ Colourful markers

Set-Up:

- ✓ Show up early to set up tables and chairs.
- ✓ As participants enter, provide them with a name tag and have them sign-in with their name and contact information if they wish to be invited to more events in the future.
- ✓ Begin by asking participants to talk about their photographic experience.
- ✓ Next, divide everyone into smaller groups and provide each group with a piece of poster board and markers.
- ✓ Have everyone in each group share with each other their favourite pictures and have them explain why they think this picture demonstrates the topic that you are highlighting.
- ✓ Have each group arrange their pictures on to the poster board, based on the meaning that each person provides for why their pictures exhibit that topic.
- ✓ Hang up each group's poster and have every group elect an ambassador to stay with the poster to explain the group's ideas. Allow everyone else to wander the room to view the other posters that have been created.
- ✓ Bring the whole group back together for a final debrief to share everyone's feelings about the activity and what they learned.



Additional Ideas:

If your school has a resource lending library, you may want to raise money to have digital cameras or pocket video cameras added to this collection so families can check out these materials to use for this activity.

Everyone who wills can hear the inner voice. It is within everyone
~ Mahatma Gandhi