

Compass Points

Purpose: To assist students when examining an issue, idea or proposition.

Description: This strategy invites students to consider an issue, idea or proposition from different perspectives. They consider what **Excites** them, what they are **Wondering**, what else they **Need** to know or find out about and what is their current **Stance** or thinking about the issue, idea or proposition and what suggestions they may have at this point moving forward.

Process:

- Present the issue, idea or proposition to the class. If it is new to the students, allow for questions and clarification.
- Students identify ~ 'What **Excites** you about this? What is the upside?' Allow them time to think and independently record their ideas on the worksheet.
- Students identify **Wonderings** ~ 'What wonderings do you have? What are your concerns? What is the downside?' Allow time to think and record ideas.
- Students identify **Needs** ~ 'What do you need to know or gather more information about to better understand this issue or idea?' Allow time to think and record ideas.
- Invite students to consider **Stances, Steps or Suggestions** ~ Depending on what you are presenting to the class, ask students to take a stance, i.e., do they agree or disagree. Invite them to give reasons for their response and identify the next steps/action or make suggestions for enhancing the situation.
- Invite the students to share their thoughts with the group. Collate these on the board. At the end of the sharing, invite the students to consider the comments made by others.
 - What themes emerged? What responses surprised you? What do you notice? What challenged you? What questions do you have about any of these responses? etc

Adapted from: <https://thinkingpathwayz.weebly.com/thinkingroutines.html>



Compass Points

What **W**onderings do you have about this idea? What are your concerns? What's the downside?

What else do you **N**eed to know or find out about this idea?



What is your **S**tance or opinion on the idea? What should the next **S**tep be? What **S**uggestions could you make?

What **E**xcites you about this idea? What's the upside?