

## Four Corners

### Goals/Uses:

- Facilitate discussions about class topics/issues and thematic studies
- Make personal connections with others
- Reinforce content
- Offer movement

### Logistics:

- Time: medium—depends on the number of rounds
- Space: enough room for people to move and gather in groups
- Materials: optional—slide or charts to show categories

### Directions:

- Have all students stand together in a group in the middle of the “playing” area.
- Choose a category and designate each corner of the classroom (or four different areas if corners don’t work) as an option in the category.
  - Ex: favorite season: winter, spring, summer, fall
  - Ex: music you enjoy: rock, country, rap, R&B
  - Ex: snowy day activity: sledding, skiing, board games, movies
- Students move to their chosen area and then talk about why they moved there.
- Next, give a more content-specific conversation. This might be a strictly academic topic, or it might be a social one, depending on the goals of the activity.
- Try other rounds as time allows and/or content warrants.

### Suggestions:

- Early in the year, keep topics safe and playful.
- Before trying more controversial topics, establish clear ground-rules for respectful discussions. Teach/share/brainstorm strategies for staying respectful of others’ opinions.
- Have students come up with ideas for the four-corner categories and choices (cartoon characters: Bugs Bunny, Pokemon, Wonder Woman, Captain America).

Social Topic Ideas	Academic Topic Ideas	SEL Topic Ideas
<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What’s something you’re looking forward to about the upcoming weekend?</li><li>• If you could have any pet, what would it be? Why?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• If you were the main character in our current read-aloud, what would you do next?</li><li>• Together, see if you can remember the steps of the scientific process.</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is a strategy you use for cooling down when you’re feeling upset?</li><li>• What is a safe place for you—a place where you</li></ul>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What are some of your favorite foods?</li><li>• If you could travel to any place in the world, where would you go? Why?</li><li>• What's a super power you wish you had?</li></ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is something you like about the story you're working on in writing right now?</li><li>• What are some ways people use fractions in their daily lives?</li></ul>	<p>feel like you can be yourself?</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>• What is something that makes you feel peaceful?</li><li>• What is a way that you apologize to a friend when you've made a mistake?</li></ul>
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