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(Paper Passing Process Tool)

Overview and Purpose:

This David Langford tool is used to help develop a shared understanding or definition around a specific topic, while, at the same time, ensuring and valuing individual voice.

Specific Strategy:

- Individual Work: Write your definition or description of _____ (i.e. **Personal Mastery System Within a Learner-Centered Environment/Culture means**)
- Table Work (~6/table):
 - Pass your paper to the left & take paper from right
 - Read the definition and underline any words or phrases that you AGREE with
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 - Read the definition and underline any words or phrases that you AGREE with
 - If a word or phrase you agree with has already been underlined, put another line underneath
 - Continue passing until you have yours back
- Table Recorder – on poster paper
 - 1st person states one word or phrase with 4 or more lines
 - 2nd person states one word or phrase with 4 or more lines (do not repeat one already stated)
 - Continue around the table until all words or phrases with 4 or more lines are on paper – this is now the word bank
 - As a group, use these words to write one definition (all words must be used and no words, besides linking verbs, etc., can be added into the list)
- Share out final definition with group

Tips and/or Extensions:

- The number of 'underlines' will vary based upon size of group and common thinking. As a facilitator, observe the number of lines and modify so the word list is an appropriate size
- When synthesizing into one sentence, suggest that if two words have the same meaning, they only should/could use one of them.
- Rule: Except for above, every word in the developed word bank of underlined words must be used and no additional words can be added (the underlining prioritized the key words)
- Provide a time limit for this activity
- After the activity, discuss ways this strategy might be used in the classroom