

- Successful discussions are the result of thoughtful, proactive planning, and careful planning.
- Students must be ready to take risks and explore the unknown.
- Whole class discussion has three main purposes:
 - To provide guidance before students explore a new topic
 - To follow up after students have explored a new topic, and
 - To give students models and opportunities to practice discussion.

PLANNING CHART FOR WHOLE-CLASS DISCUSSION

Essential Background Knowledge

1. What facts do I expect students to know before we start?
2. What big ideas do I expect them to know?

Example:

- Communities are not just people.
- We have an effect on our "community."
- There are endangered species.
- There are endangered habitats

Essential Vocabulary

1. What words/terms do I expect them to know already?
2. What words/terms will I teach them before we start?
3. What words/terms will I teach them during the unit?

Example:

<u>Already Know</u>	<u>Pre-Teach</u>	<u>Teach as we go</u>
Community	ecosystem	abiotic/biotic
Food chain	carnivore/herbivore/omnivore	nitrogen cycle
Decompose		
Carbon, nitrogen, photosynthesis		

Goals/Purposes

1. Why do the students need to know this information?
2. What big ideas do I want them to understand by the end of the unit?

Example:

Why? To know how to be responsible citizens to preserve the environment

Big Ideas:

- Ecosystems are very delicate
- Ecosystems are interdependent
- We have an effect on our ecosystem