



USE WITH:  
Small groups



GRADE LEVEL:  
Upper elementary, middle school, or high school



CONTEXT:  
Remote friendly

CLASSROOM ACTIVITY

# Conduct a Sparks Interview

Students will expand possibilities and build peer relationships through peer-to-peer interviews and active listening.

Created by [Search Institute](#)

## Description:

This resource helps students engage and build relationships with their peers by learning more about their talents or interests, also known as “sparks.”

Prep time needed:  
**5 minutes**

Est. time to complete:  
**20 minutes**

## Steps:

1. Let students know that in this activity they will interview another student in order to learn more about their interests, talents, or the things that give them the most energy, which we will refer to as “sparks.”
2. Provide students with either a copy of the interview questions or point them to where they can read the list of questions, which are:
  - What is one of your sparks? A spark is a talent, activity, or an interest that gives you a lot of enjoyment and that means a lot to you.
  - How do you feel when you are doing or are focusing on your spark?
  - What is something that most people don’t know about your spark?
  - Do you do anything to get better at your spark? If so, what do you do?

- Is there anyone in your life who supports your spark, such as cheering you on when you do it or helping you get better at it? What are some things they do?
3. Break students up into pairs or small groups to take turns conducting the interview. Remind them that a good interviewer listens intently to the interviewee and asks follow-up questions based on what they have learned.
  4. Give each interviewer 8 minutes to interview the other person and then switch roles for another 8 minutes. The person with the next birthday will serve as the first interviewer.
  5. After the interviews, take some time to debrief with students, either in pairs, small groups, or with the whole class. Ask them: How did it feel to be interviewed by your peer? What did you learn about your peer that you didn't know before the interview?

### **Tips for Educators:**

- If you have time beforehand, think about how you might form the pairs to help students get to know other students who they might not have formed a relationship with yet.

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### Inspired by:

1. Scales, P. C. (2017). High-quality OST activities and programs: Using the RISE approach (Relationships, interests and sparks, and empowerment) to promote thriving in youth and their settings. In H. J. Malone & T. Donahue (Eds.), *The growing out-of-school time field: Past, present, and future* (pp. 25-46). Information Age Publishing.