**Paired Discussions (Speed Dating)**

**STEP 1**

Make two rows of chairs facing each other (but standing works, too) in pairs, like so:

**STEP 2**

Distribute the provided prompts, one to each pair of chairs, like so:

**STEP 3**

Students sit in the chairs, shake hands with their partner, read the prompt together, and then discuss.

**STEP 4**

Rotate

When the facilitator determines that enough time has passed or the discussions have generally started to slow down, he or she should announce it is time to rotate. Here’s how to do it:

1. Everybody move one chair to the right.
2. If there is no chair to your right, move to the other end of the same row of chairs you are already in, following the arrows below.
3. Leave the discussion prompts where they are, so that each of you is facing a new partner and a new discussion prompt.

**STEP 5**

Repeat until each participant has had a chance to discuss as many prompts as possible.

**Consider the following advantages and adaptations:**

* It’s not always necessary to have everyone complete the entire circuit.
* It’s a maximal use of time because all students are doing something.
* Prompts can be discussion questions, charts, quoted excerpts, icebreakers, writing prompts, quiz questions, etc.
* It’s social AND intellectual. Students love it. Community forms quickly.
* Students who may be cautious about speaking in front of the whole class sometimes come alive one-on-one.
* It gives students a chance to try out their ideas and practice articulating them before discussions with larger groups, or for example, in essays.