

Transforming Education

Discussion Guide

A new report from UNESCO, the United Nations' specialized agency for education, calls for a broad mobilization to change education to help us make better futures for ourselves and our world. It says:

we need to press reset on WHY we learn and make sure learning builds our knowledge and capacity to act so we can transform our relationships with each other, with planet Earth, and with technology.

there should be a massive updating of WHAT we learn to focus on ecological, intercultural, and interdisciplinary learning that relates to people's everyday lives and the contemporary challenges we all face.

we should reconsider HOW we teach and learn with teaching as a collaborative profession that support pedagogies of cooperation and solidarity.

we need to examine HOW we organize education ensuring it remains human-focused, a fundamental right, a public activity, and a common good.

To transform the world, education needs to be transformed. And because talking together is a necessary part of acting together, joining up with others to discuss these three questions is a good place to start.

What happens in education that should continue?

Begin by talking about the features of education that do a good job serving us individually and collectively. Maybe this is something well-established, or perhaps it is something new. Be sure to share your thoughts on why it is important to keep doing certain things.

What are we doing now that needs to be abandoned?

Next move onto discussing what we currently do in education that we should stop doing. Perhaps these are habits or patterns that need to be "unlearned". Again, it's very important to think about why we need to stop doing certain things.

What needs to be creatively invented afresh?

Third, let's think about what needs to be reinvented? What do we need to move towards that we're not yet doing? Please use your imagination and creativity to discuss what could be different?

Finally, your group needs to discuss **what to do to start making this change?** Who needs to hear about your ideas and plans? Who is not part of the conversation that should have the opportunity to join?

Think of one **immediate goal**, something everyone can commit to doing right away. Also think about some **mid-range goals** that you can work together on and return to over the next weeks and months. And be sure to identify some **long-term goals** that you want to set and remember together, even if they will take some time to accomplish.