



## Block Party

### A Pre-Reading Text-Based Activity

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*Adapted by Debbie Bambino from Kyleene Beers' pre-reading strategy.*

This activity can be used with a variety of texts, poems, articles, or whole books. It works well with large groups.

#### **Process**

1. Facilitator writes quotes on index cards prior to the session. You may choose one quote per participant, or repeat some quotes.
2. Participants randomly select quotes/cards and spend a few minutes reflecting upon their quote's meaning for them and their work. (3 minutes)
3. Participants mingle and share quotes in pairs. Participants are encouraged to share with 3 other participants in 5 minute segments. (15 minutes)
4. (Optional) Form triads or quads and share quotes and insights about the text and its implications for our work. (Extension: Speculate on the purpose/origin of the text.) (12-15 minutes)
5. As a whole group, share of ideas and questions raised by the experience. This can be done popcorn style or as a round, but is usually not a conversation. (10-12 minutes)
6. The facilitator shares the source of the quotes, posting the link, distributing the article etc. for future work. (1 minute)
7. Debrief the process. (5 minutes)

*Note: At the 2005 National Facilitator's Meeting in Chicago the following possibilities were shared:*

*1) Have participants exchange cards/quotes after each round, 2) Use this format to share end of year reflections or start-up aspirations, 3) Use quotes from longer pieces to open up the conversation in large, mixed groups where students and family members might have previously been excluded from the discussion of the material.*