

# Traffic Signs

At A Glance: After an experience, ask a question and have participants go to the sign that resonates with them. Have them explain why they made their choice in small groups and/or whole group. Continue with a number of questions related to what you'd like students to reflect on.



Time: 10+ minutes

Equipment: Traffic signs, made in advance

\*\*[This document](#) has a number you can draw from.

Group Size: Whole group

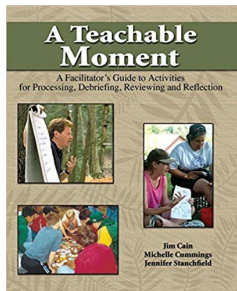
## Facilitator Instructions:

1. Prepare a number of traffic signs in advance. If students aren't familiar with the names or meanings of different signs, you may want to write it's name (and possibly meaning) under the sign so its meaning is clear. Place the signs throughout the room.
2. Explain to students that they will choose one sign to go to based on a prompt you give them. They should take time to think about their choice because they will be asked to share with a partner - and possibly a small or whole group - why they chose the sign they did. Students should also know they are free to change their choice at any time as their thinking changes.
3. Provide students with a reflective prompt or question that leads them to make a choice of sign. For example:
  - *Choose a sign to represent how your group communicated.*
  - *What direction would you like to see the group go now?*
  - *Which sign represents a next step for your group?*
  - *Which sign represents a next step for you?*
  - *How is your group working towards solving the problem?*
4. Once students have made a choice, have them go to that sign. Once everyone has made their choice, asks students to explain to a partner or small group why they made their choice. Ask students to also notice where their group members chose to stand.
5. Ask for volunteers to share their thinking, or for a representative of the group to share their thinking. It's important to hear from all signs chosen and why those choices were made.
6. Have groups rejoin each other and determine the next step(s) that will be taken based on how the group is feeling.

Possible Variations:

- Mid way through an activity, give each group (or individual) a handout with specific signs on it, such as: GO, STOP, YIELD, U-TURN, DO NOT ENTER, SPEED LIMIT, etc. Have the group agree on one idea they'd like for each. For example:
  - GO: Something you should keep doing.
  - STOP: Something that isn't helping and should be stopped.
  - YIELD: Something we should stop and think about a bit more.
  - U-TURN: Something we need to revisit/recheck.
  - DO NOT ENTER: A place that we haven't gone and shouldn't because...
  - SPEED LIMIT: Where do we need to slow down?
- Place all traffic signs visibly in the front of the group or in them middle of a circle, on the group. Give each student a short piece of string (4 to 6 inches long), referred to as a "worm". On the count of three, invite everyone to toss their worm onto the illustration that they feel most accurately describes the performance of the group. This technique of voting allows participants to form their own opinion and impression, and to vote independently if others in the group.
- After an experience, ask a question and have participants go to the sign that resonates with them. Have them explain why they made their choice in small groups and/or whole group. Continue with a number of questions related to what you'd like students to reflect on.

## References:



pgs. 228-229