

Implementing Cogenerative Dialogues and Teaching the Whole Student

Based on the works of *Edmund Adjapong, Ph.D.* and *Chris Emdin, Ph.D.*

Cogenerative dialogues (cogens) are structured, reflective conversations between the teacher and a small group of dissimilar students that can help the teacher “communicate effectively across cultural, social, ethnic and economic boundaries” (LaVan, 2004).

Students and the teacher co-develop strategies for instruction that focus on students’ socioemotional and academic needs. The dialogues enable open communication concerning both the teacher and students’ perspectives on schooling. “The net result is an environment where students feel valued and are comfortable taking intellectual risks” (Danielson, 2a, 2013)



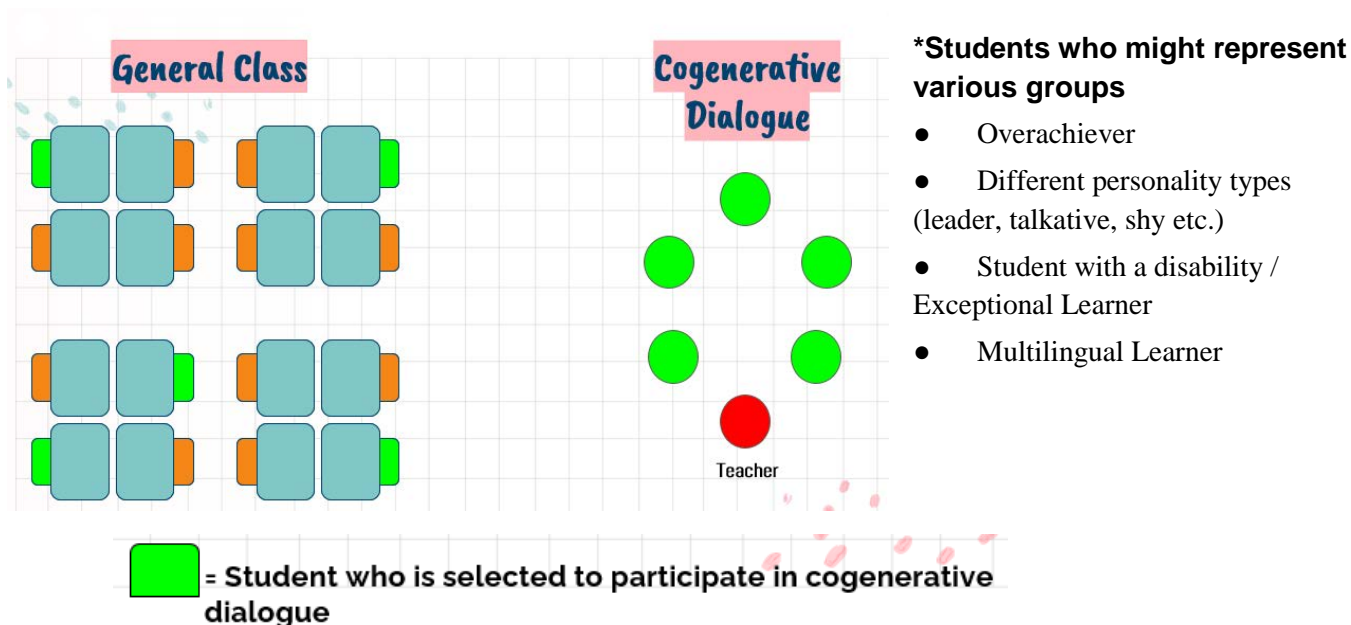
Goals of Cogenerative Dialogues

1. Gain a deeper understanding of students and their experiences
2. Improve teachers’ pedagogical practices
3. Improve relationships between students and teachers
4. Improve classroom culture
5. Overall improve school culture

“As a result of cogenerative dialogues, I was able to gain insight into how my students view me as a teacher and our class.... In hindsight, I would establish cogen. groups after the first month of the school year to tackle earlier classroom issues.”
- Takeisha B., high school teacher and Peer Collaborative Coach

Process for Cogenerative Dialogues

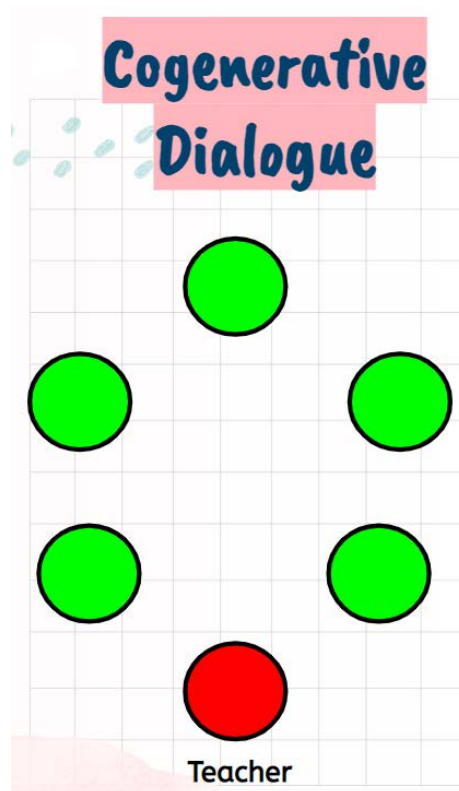
- Identify *4-5 students who represent different populations of the class
- Meet with students outside of classroom time
- Identify general questions that will allow you to elicit information about students
- Co-generate a plan of action
- Implement plan of action



Protocol

1. Using the template provided on page 3, identify what you want to explore and/or gain a deeper understanding of as it relates to the classroom environment and students.
2. Identify students for the cogenerative dialogue
3. Schedule time outside of classroom time to host the cogenerative dialogue
4. Develop 3-5 questions that you want to ask students based on your exploration
5. Host cogenerative dialogue
6. Establish community norms for discussion
7. Identify a cogenerated plan (students & teacher) of action
8. Implement a plan of action within one-week of initial cogenerative dialogue.

Cogenerative dialogues foster positive relationships among students and between students and their teacher. Strong relationships foster positive emotions, which create a more powerful connection to the content. A whole child approach in “which teachers must have an understanding of the realities and experiences of their students inside and outside the classroom” (Emdin, Christopher 2021), provides opportunities for equity.



Teaching to me is about when a teacher reaches that point where they understand the performance in their craft and can connect all the technical knowledge with that soul knowledge, with that—the merging of the intuitional with the institutional, it's at that point that you begin to teach. (Emdin, Christopher 2021)

CRSE in Action: Cogenerative Dialogues Planning Document

Schedule	
Teacher Name	
Date	
Time/Period	
Virtual Meeting Link	

Choose one of the sentence starter options below to identify what you want to explore and/or gain a deeper understanding of as it relates to the classroom environment and students.

1. I want to gain a deeper understanding of my students'...
2. I want to gain a deeper understanding regarding why my students...
3. I want to explore solutions for improving...
- 4.

Response:

Cogenerative Dialogue Participants	
Student Name	Student Category
1.	
2.	
3.	
4.	
5.	

Questions for Students
(Add additional questions below)

Sample Question

- What brings you joy?
- What makes you happy?
- What do you enjoy about my class?
- How can I best support all students to be successful?
- What can I do to improve as a teacher?

What questions do you want to ask students?

- .
- .
- .

Cogenerative Dialogue Norms

1. Be respectful
2. Be honest
3. What is said during the cogenerative stays between participants and teacher
4. Equal turns to talk
5. Sit in a circle (when in-person)
- 6.
- 7.
- 8.
- 9.

Cogenerative Dialogue Notes

Cogenerated Plan of Action

A plan that is agreed upon by both participants and students that explains how you will use the information/data gathered during the cogenerative dialogue to make the classroom more inclusive and responsive to the needs of students.