

Future Box Tourism



Method I Conversation Dinner

Basics

Objective	In discussions with colleagues and experts, participants will develop a multi-perspective approach to tourism in the light of climate change and sustainable development: the current situation, drivers of change and possible futures.
Competencies	participants strengthen their competence to <ul style="list-style-type: none">● communicate● think critically and systemically● think multi-prospectively● think in a value-oriented way● reflect● think in a forward-looking and visionary way
Material	Menu cards: for food, drinks, and guiding questions eventually: adhesive tape and pens (for name tags) and paper and pens for notes
Form of social interaction	in teams - ideally composed of participants (pupils/students) and experts (from different fields)
Duration	approx. 2 hours (+ approx. 30 minutes follow-up)

Brief Description

At a Conversation Dinner (or Breakfast / Lunch), the participants have good conversations about important topics. The questions may vary depending on the specific purpose. The conversations reach a depth in a playful way, especially through a cleverly chosen table arrangement, where students sit with experts who bring in different perspectives.

Preparation

With this method, everything about the meal must be organised in advance: room, menu for food, drinks and discussions, experts, invitations, room and seating arrangements, etc. The participants or another group could be involved in the organisation (keyword: event management). Drinks and food should - in keeping with the theme - be as climate-friendly as possible.

Implementation

1. take a seat at the table and introduce yourself

Find your seat at one of the tables. Now get to know your table mates: introduce yourself. If not already done: write your name on an adhesive strip and stick it to your chest. This way you can always be addressed by name and address your discussion partners by name.

2. discuss

Now discuss with your table mates along the menu about the respective topic, in this specific case about climate change, tourism and sustainable development. The guiding questions give you

orientation and provide impulses for the discussion, which then might go in different directions depending on your contributions.

Examples of guiding questions

Appetiser

- To what extent is climate change already noticeable in areas in which we operate?
- What challenges and opportunities do we see in climate change in general and in relation to our fields of activity and
- in relation to tourism?

Main course

- What could sustainable tourism look like in general and in the context of climate change?
- For sustainable tourism to succeed, transformation is needed. What do you think are the reasons that it transformation has not yet succeeded, although we know so much about what is wrong, what we should do differently and also how we should do it?
- What hinders transformation personally, in one's own profession/activity, socially, politically, and structurally?

Note: These questions are about questioning what is known/accustomed. About our own teaching, also the content and how we design teaching/learning processes and, beyond that, about breaking down mental structures that have become stuck and make us believe that everything must be the way it is. It is also about questioning individual and collective values, required competencies, habits and emotions that we associate with sustainable development.

Dessert

- How do we succeed in concretely imagining a different world and working together to make it a reality? What does it take?
- What can we do in our sphere of influence - private, professional - e.g., at school/university - to support this process?

3. say goodbye

Thank your interlocutors for the good conversation and the interesting insights you have gained. Say goodbye.

4. Document key insights

Take a few moments to note down the main points of the discussion. What was new/surprising/interesting? What would you like to remember later?

Note: The findings and results from the discussions are part of the research phase and are later exchanged in the group and then discussed in the plenary in the course of a follow-up session. At the Conversation Dinner the reflection will take place the following day, at a Conversation Breakfast or Lunch directly afterwards.

Alternatives

The method can be carried out at dinner, lunch, or breakfast and on different topics (with adapted guiding questions).

Good to know

The method is well suited to discuss different topics. Students practise discussing and debating and thus strengthen their communication skills. In case it is possible to organise people who bring different knowledge, experiences and perspectives, the method offers a good opportunity to promote multi-perspective thinking besides increasing knowledge.



Follow-up / securing results

We recommend not only documenting and sharing the results and findings of the discussion (in the teams and in the plenary), but also reflecting on the method to enable the participants to become aware of their learning process. This can be done in different ways, for example through methods such as think-pair-share.

Possible guiding questions:

- What insights did you gain from the discussions? What was new/surprising/interesting/...? What could this knowledge be good for (about the present and the future)?
- What experiences did you have during the discussions? To what extent were you able to contribute yourselves and your positions? How profound were the discussions? What did you find easy? What was challenging?
- ...