

Conversations that  
must be had right now.  
Featuring leaders in the  
field **like you** taking a  
whole new perspective  
on familiar issues.



# EARTHRISE CHATS

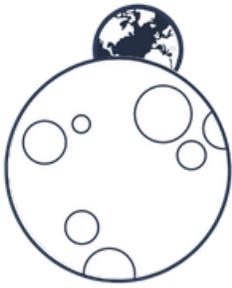
ASSESSMENT  
FOR  
LEARNING

2021



CONVERSATION GUIDE

A CONFERENCE  
A LEARNING COMMUNITY  
AN EXPANDING UNIVERSE



## EARTHRISE CHATS

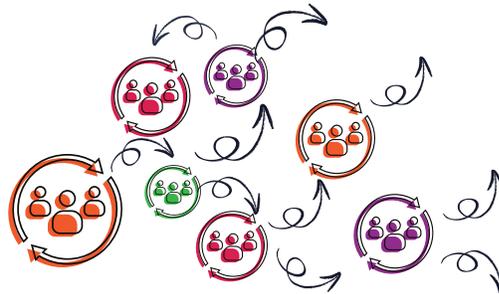
## WHAT ARE EARTHRISE CHATS?

On December 24, 1968, astronaut William Anders took what would become one of the most famous photos in human history. As part of the first crewed mission to orbit the moon, Anders and his fellow astronauts witnessed the earth “rising” over the surface of the moon and took the photo that would become known as Earthrise. As Anders said, “We set out to explore the moon and instead discovered the Earth.”

If we look at familiar topics in education and assessment from a fundamentally different perspective, what might we discover?

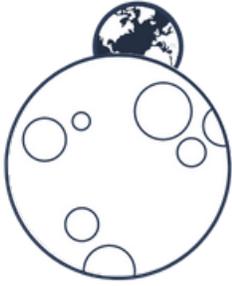
## EARTHRISE CHATS:

A Process By  
Which One  
Conversation...



...Becomes  
Many

- STEP 1:** The Assessment for Learning Project (ALP) team hosts a small group conversation, structured as a circle, on an important topic identified by our learning community. This Earthrise Chat becomes a podcast or blog, produced by ALP.
- STEP 2:** Each podcast or blog, which includes 3-5 discussion prompts, is an invitation to the AFL learning community to join the conversation. You can host your own Earthrise Chat in your school, organization or community using our Conversation Guide.
- STEP 3:** Your Earthrise Chat will generate important stories and questions. If you choose to share these, we invite you to share a blog or AFL 2021 session inspired by your conversation. We will offer stipends to encourage sessions created by school-based educators and BIPOC voices.



**EARTHRISE  
CHATS**

# CONVERSATION GUIDE

Earthrise Chats invite educators, system leaders, students and community members to ask important questions about our education system, using the current circumstances to take a fundamentally different perspective on these questions. Anyone can host an Earthrise Chat using this guide. We invite you to share and modify this protocol as needed.

## BEFORE THE CHAT

### Reflect:

- Why does this conversation topic matter to you?
- How do our current circumstances shape the way that you think and feel about this topic?

### Invite:

- We suggest inviting between one and five other people
- Think about what voices, perspectives and identities are important to this conversation.
- Consider who has the power to be heard, and how this conversation might help to share that power.
- We recommend 60-90 minutes for the conversation.

# EARTHRISE CHAT AGENDA

## WELCOME

5 minutes

Each person shares their name, where they're from, one thing they can offer to the conversation, one thing they hope to receive from the conversation.

## CONVERSATION AGREEMENTS

5 minutes

Read the conversation agreements and invite participants to suggest modifications (adapted from [livingroomconversations.org](http://livingroomconversations.org))

- Be Curious and Listen to Understand
- Show Respect and Suspend Judgement
- Be Authentic and Welcome Authenticity from Others
- Take Responsibility for Honoring These Agreements

# EARTHRISE CHAT AGENDA (CONT'D)

## CONNECTING TO THE TOPIC

10 minutes

- One person plays or summarizes the conversation starter.
- Each person responds to this prompt: **Why is this an important conversation to me?** If there is a specific experience, event or relationship that crystallizes the importance, participants are encouraged to share it.

## CONVERSATION ROUNDS

30 minutes

Each Earthrise Chat podcast or blog includes 3-5 discussion questions. We recommend using conversation rounds, described below, to explore these questions.

Conversation Rounds (you can do as many rounds as you have time for)

- The host chooses one of the discussion questions and responds.
- After the first person speaks, the other participants can either build on something they heard, or offer their own response to the initial prompt.
- After about 10 minutes, or when everyone has had a chance to speak, the host invites someone else to choose another prompt, and the conversation repeats.

## CLOSING

10 minutes

- Each person shares one idea or other gift that they will take with them from the conversation.
- Collectively, the group decides whether and how to share its learning from the conversation.
- If you tweet, use the tag #RethinkAssessment and we will retweet! If you write a blog, we will publish it! If you design a conference session, we will include it in AFL 2021! Stipends will be available for school-based staff and BIPOC voices.