

School Climate Focus Group Script

- Have Students Sign-In
- Have students create name tags
- Refreshments

Welcome and thank you for coming today to our school climate focus group. We appreciate your taking the time to discuss the topic of the climate and culture at STC. The reason for this focus group is to clarify the answers we got back from the school climate surveys you guys took a few weeks ago.

My name is Mrs. Witman and I will be facilitating this focus group. A facilitator is someone who guides a group. They help others take the lead. The primary role of a focus group facilitator is to listen. Within the context of listening, I will encourage accurate and honest feedback. The Recorder is Mrs. Worthy and she will be writing down your responses. We want to remind you that our discussion today will be audio recorded. This is so we can go back and listen to your responses so we can accurately document your thoughts and opinions.

Ice-breaker: We are going to do a quick ice breaker in case you guys don't know each other. Please introduce yourself by telling us what shop you are in, your level, and what district you are from. Also, tell us one thing you plan to do this summer. (vacation, job, special event, etc.)

The following are some rules to remember as we engage in the discussion.

- All of your comments and opinions will be recognized as important and all participants will have the opportunity to address the questions.
- There are no right or wrong answers.
- Please be open and honest with your responses even if they do not reflect those of the other respondents.
- Please be respectful to everyone in the room including students and adults.
- Do not interrupt anyone.
- What is said in this room stays here.
- Make sure your body language is appropriate.
- Only one person at a time may speak.
- All rules in the student handbook apply during the focus group discussion.

We know your time is valuable and we appreciate it. We will keep on a schedule so we can discuss all of the important topics and we will end this focus group at 11:15.

Does anyone have any questions before we begin our focus group?

Ok. Since there are no more questions, we are going to begin. Please remember that all of your answers should be based on STC, NOT your home school.

School Climate Focus Group
Questions

Domain: Safe and Respectful School Climate

Question 1:

Please tell us whether you like or dislike being a student at STC and explain why or why not.

Question 2:

What type of bullying is taking place at STC and where does it happen?

Question 3:

What are some types of activities that could be done at STC that could help build more positive relationships? (student/student, student/faculty, etc.)

Question 4:

What elements of STC do you find positive?

What elements of STC do you find negative?

Domain: Social Emotional Learning

Question 5:

What makes you happy when you are at STC and how do you remain happy when you are here?

What makes you angry when you are at STC and how do you deal with your anger while you are in school?

What causes you stress when you are at STC and how do you deal with stress while you are in school?

Question 6:

What strategies and interventions can we provide at STC to help students meet their social needs?

What strategies and interventions can we provide at STC to help students meet their emotional needs?

Domain: Student Support

Question 7:

If you have a problem at home or with friends, who at STC do you feel comfortable talking to about it and why?

Question 8:

During your semester at STC, what information do you feel is not communicated to you effectively from your home school?

What suggestions do you have to improve communication between STC and your home school?

Question 9:

What are some ways STC students can promote STC when they are back at their home schools?

Question 10:

What advice would you give a student who was thinking about attending STC?

What advice would you give to a level 1 student on his/her first day of STC?

Domain: High Expectations/Academic Rigor/Challenge

Question 11:

What type of career and continuing education presentations would you like to see at STC?

Question 12:

What do you like about your teachers at STC? (Please do NOT use names.)

What do you dislike about your teachers at STC?

What do you like about other faculty members at STC?

What do you dislike about other faculty members at STC?

Does anyone have any other comments or suggestions relevant to the topics we have discussed today that they would like to share at this time?

On behalf of the School Climate Leadership Team, we would like to thank you for your honesty and for participation in today's focus group. Please be assured that your names will not be associated with your answers and all information discussed will be used for the intent of creating a better school climate at the Schuylkill Technology Center. This concludes our focus group discussion. Thank you for your help and cooperation!

School Climate Focus Group
Reporting Form

Date Of Focus Group	
Time of Focus Group	
Location of Focus Group	
Number of Participants	
Facilitator Name	Gretchen Witman
Recorder Name	Lisa Worthy

Domain: Safe and Respectful School Climate

Question 1:

Please tell us whether you like or dislike being a student at STC and explain why or why not.

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes

Question 2:

What type of bullying is taking place at STC and where does it happen?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes

Question 3:

What are some types of activities that could be done at STC that could help build more positive relationships? (student/student, student/faculty, etc.)

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes

Question 4:

What elements of STC do you find positive?

What elements of STC do you find negative?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Positive	Positive
Negative	Negative

Domain: Social Emotional Learning

Question 5:

What makes you happy when you are at STC and how do you remain happy when you are here?

What makes you angry when you are at STC and how do you deal with your anger while you are in school?

What causes you stress when you are at STC and how do you deal with stress while you are in school?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Happy	Positive
Angry	Angry
Stress	Stress

Question 6:

What strategies and interventions can we provide at STC to help students meet their social needs?

What strategies and interventions can we provide at STC to help students meet their emotional needs?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Social	Social
Emotional	Emotional

Domain: Student Support

Question 7:

If you have a problem at home or with friends, who at STC do you feel comfortable talking to about it and why?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Positive	Positive
Negative	Negative

Question 8:

During your semester at STC, what information do you feel is not communicated to you effectively from your home school?

What suggestions do you have to improve communication between STC and your home school?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Information	Information
Improvement Suggestions	Improvement Suggestions

Question 9:

What are some ways STC students can promote STC when they are back at their home schools?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes

Question 10:

What advice would you give a student who was thinking about attending STC?

What advice would you give to a level 1 student on his/her first day of STC?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Prospective Student	Prospective Student
Level 1 Student	Level 1 Student

Domain: High Expectations/Academic Rigor/Challenge

Question 11:

What type of career and continuing education presentations would you like to see at STC?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Career	Career
Continuing Education	Continuing Education

Question 12:

What do you like about your teachers at STC? (Please do NOT use names.)

What do you dislike about your teachers at STC?

What do you like about other faculty members at STC?

What do you dislike about other faculty members at STC?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes
Teachers: Like	Teachers: Like
Teachers: Dislike	Teachers: Dislike
Other Faculty: Like	Other Faculty: Like
Other Faculty: Dislike	Other Faculty: Dislike

Does anyone have any other comments or suggestions relevant to the topics we have discussed today that they would like to share at this time?

Brief Summary/Key Points	Notable Quotes