



Questions to Guide the Development of a Classroom Culture That Supports “Figuring Out”

Building a classroom culture of figuring out requires developing a learning community in which students are involved in science and engineering practices in a meaningful way. This requires a classroom in which students help manage the trajectory of their knowledge building. Classrooms should be places where students can say:

- **We figure out the science ideas.**
- **We figure out where we are going at each step.**
- **We figure out how to put the ideas together over time.**

Creating this classroom culture requires working on five questions, as we analyze a unit, develop a unit, or prepare to teach a unit:

- 1. How do we kick off investigations in a unit?**
- 2. How do we work with students to motivate the next step in an investigation?**
- 3. How do we help students use practices to figure out pieces of the science ideas?**
- 4. How do we push students to go deeper and revise the science ideas we have built together so far?**
- 5. How do we help students put together pieces of the disciplinary core ideas and crosscutting concepts?**