Generative Knowledge Interviewing (GKI)

Step 1: The Stories
Create prompts that ask participants to generate two or more stories. Depending on the purpose of the GKI process, consider specifying the following constraints in your prompts:
- Timeframe
- Content or Key Words
- Quality of experience (e.g., positive, negative, aha! moment)

Step 2: The Interview
In groups of 3, each person takes on one of the following roles:

1. **Storyteller**: Shares all stories.
2. **Interviewer**: After the storyteller completes all, the interviewer prompts the storyteller to fill in details, define key words, or elaborate on points that caused confusion or curiosity.
3. **Notetaker**: Takes notes while the storyteller shares and answers questions. The notes should focus on patterns within and across stories as well as evocative imagery and language.

After the interviewing, the notetaker and the interviewer reflect back to the storyteller his or her specific patterns of talents, skills, capacities, and potential barriers or challenges.

Step 3: The Affirmation
The interviewer and notetaker write an affirmation or summary sentence for the storyteller. This affirmation can be a template given by the GKI organizer (e.g., “At the heart of _____’s teaching philosophy is the belief that ______.”)
Interviewing Best Practices

Ask Open-ended Questions.

Ask Questions That Develop the Story.
The Narrative Trajectory. Consider questions such as
- How does the story begin?
- Why does the storyteller take or avoid particular actions?
- What is the conflict in the story?
- How was the conflict resolved?
- How does the story end?

Types of Characters. Consider questions such as
- Who is the hero of the story? What actions make her or him the hero? What qualities does the hero have?
- Who is an ally in the story? What actions make her or him an ally? What qualities does the ally have?
- Who is the villain of the story? What actions make her or him a villain? What qualities does the villain have?

Context for the story. Consider questions such as
- Where does the story take place?
- When does the story take place?
- What else was going on in the storyteller's life at the time of the story?
- What event(s) put the story in motion?

Possible Symbols. Consider questions such as
- What qualities do meaningful objects in the story possess?
- What meaning is associated with particular places within the story?
- How are the five senses engaged in the story? What does the storyteller see, hear, taste, touch, and smell within the story? What feelings or meaning is associated with those sensory experiences?
- What colors appear in the story? What meaning does the storyteller attribute to those colors?