Snowball Discussion

Standards covered:

SWBAT discuss ideas, while respecting others, within a group setting
SWBAT cite textual evidence to support personal opinions and analysis of literature

Task:

Before I let you "loose" to have larger group discussion, we're going to do one more practice of how we have a respectful discussion, specifically how to "share the floor" with others by not interrupting and disagreeing respectfully. You will begin in a pair and discuss the questions you wrote for homework last night. After both you and your partner have had a chance to share your ideas on both questions (about 5 minutes), then your pair will join a pair close to you. In your new group of four, you will discuss your questions, ensuring everyone shares and uses respectful language when contributing. Then, after enough time has passed for everyone to discuss the new questions, your group of will join another group of four; your new group of eight will then begin discussions. This will continue until the whole class is joined together in one big group. This will be a self-assessed activity, focusing on the following criteria:

- Contributing positively to the group by using respectful language at all times
- Sharing the floor with others aka not interrupting
- Adding relevant ideas to the discussion
- Using textual evidence/specific examples to support your ideas

You will assess yourself using this rubric:

Criteria	Weight	Beginning	Developing	Proficiency	Mastery
Contributing positively to group discussion	X 3	Did not contribute positively to the discussion; used disrespectful language throughout and interrupted many times (more than 5)	Contributed positively to the discussion by using respectful language some of the time and shared the floor with others with some (3-5) interruptions	Contributed positively to the discussion by using respectful language most of the time and shared the floor with others with minimal (1 or 2) interruptions	Contributed positively to the discussion by using respectful language at all times and shared the floor with others without interrupting
Adding relevant ideas to the discussion	X 1	Did not add relevant ideas to each discussion; was usually off topic and did not responded to others' ideas	Added some relevant ideas to each discussion; was somewhat on topic and may or may not have responded to others' ideas	Added mostly relevant ideas to each discussion (may have been a few repeats); was usually on topic and responded to others' ideas	Added relevant ideas to each new discussion; was always on topic and responded to others' ideas
Support for Ideas/Opinion	X 2	None of your ideas were supported with relevant textual evidence and/or specific examples	Some of your ideas were supported with relevant textual evidence and/or specific examples	Most of your ideas were supported with relevant textual evidence and/or specific examples	All of your ideas were supported with relevant textual evidence and/or specific examples