# Tool: Student Focus Groups

A series of questions to be asked of a small group of students (3-10 students) in a single grade. The questions focus on experiences that stand out to the students themselves. A script for introducing the process to the students is included with the interview guide. As with the Key Stakeholder interviews, audio-recording these focus group sessions will enable enhanced analysis of themes that students bring up by having a written transcription to which to refer.

## Student Focus group

Thank you for coming to talk about the Farm to School program that has been going on at your school this year. We appreciate your help.

I would like to audio-record our discussion if that is okay with you. That way, I can remember what you say without taking your time to write them down. I will not store or use your names with your comments.

May I have your permission to audio-record our discussion?

* Yes ⇒ *(Turn on recorder and continue.)*
* No ⇒ That’s fine. We will not record. I will take notes.

Do you have any questions about the interview before we begin?

* Yes ⇒ *(Find out what the questions are and answer them. Then continue.)*
* No ⇒ (Continue.)

The purpose of this interview is to hear from you about some of the activities you did this year to learn about food and farms. We want to hear if there was anything you liked, if you learned anything that was important, and if you shared with your friends and family.

1. Collect student information:

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **School name:** |  |
| **Grade of students:** |  |
| **# of students in this group:** |  |

1. Who is the Farm to School person? What else does he/she do at your school?
2. What new foods did you try this year? Did you like them? Was it fun? (probe with specific foods introduced in tastings, harvest of the month, other activities – specific to individual site)
3. What were your favorite new foods that you tried this year at school?
4. What were your least favorite new foods that you tried this year at school?
5. Were there any foods that you asked your parents to have at home because you tried them at school?
6. Were there any foods that you asked your parents NOT to have at home after you tried them at school?
7. Did you enjoy (any of various F2S activities specific to the school)? What was your favorite part? What did you learn? *– maybe do this for all, or several, of the activities?*
8. Were there any activities that you really didn’t like?
9. What did you learn about food this year? (probe with key points from AmeriCorps curriculum – how to grow food, composting, how to cook foods, others?)
10. Do you help choose and cook meals and snacks at home? What do you like to choose? What do you like to cook?
11. Are there foods that you do *not* like to have at home, or foods that you do *not* like to cook?
12. Do you have a garden at home where your family grows food? Do you help with it? What parts do you like to help with the most? What parts do you like to help with the least?