

Figure 4.8:
Academic Conversations for Reflection

Incorporate the following suggestions to provide opportunities for educators to share their thoughts, experiences, and questions with each other. Consider creating an online forum or Facebook™ page for staff to post their responses and to provide a network for continuing conversations.

- ✓ Discuss a high-aptitude student you know who displayed one or more detrimental outcomes when recognition and nurturing did not occur. What happened?
- ✓ Write one sentence that encapsulates an idea or strategy that you deem important. Share your sentence with two other people.
- ✓ Identify several books you use that are particularly effective with advanced students. What about the books make them appropriate?
- ✓ Brainstorm a list of six effective ways to meet the needs of advanced learners while you are instructing others in the same classroom.
- ✓ Discuss how a specific negative trait you observed might actually indicate above grade-level potential.
- ✓ Identify one strategy you plan to incorporate. Briefly explain when and how you plan to use it in your classroom.
- ✓ In addition to you, which individuals in your school could help you provide challenge and appropriate instruction to highly able students? How could each help?
- ✓ What is something you utilize to provide instruction at the readiness level of highly able students?
- ✓ As part of your professional growth, write one or more actions you plan to take in your classroom as you work with underrepresented academic learners.
- ✓ I really like...
- ✓ I noticed...
- ✓ An idea that is new to me is...
- ✓ I need clarification or more information about...
- ✓ I wish others understood...

