

Teacher Talk Moves

Use these prompts during discussions to guide students in taking ownership of their thinking and meeting the following goals.

Goal One:

Students clearly express their ideas through writing or speaking.

- Take 60 seconds to write your response or share your answer with a partner.
- What do you think about ____?
- How did you answer (the question)?
- What is the most important idea you are communicating?
- What is your main point?

Goal Two:

Students listen carefully and clearly understand others' ideas presented in writing or speaking.

- Let me see if I heard you correctly. You said ____.
- I heard you say _____. Is that correct?
- Put another way, you're saying _____.
- Say more about _____.
- I'm confused when you say _____. Say more about that.
- Give me an example.
- Who can rephrase what _____ said?

Goal Three:

Students provide evidence and explanation to support their claims.

- What in the text makes you think so?
- How do you know? Why do you think that?
- Explain how you came to your idea.

Goal Four:

Students establish new ways of thinking by elaborating on or challenging the thoughts of others.

- Who can add to what X said?
- Who agrees/disagrees with X?
- Who wants to challenge what X said? Why?
- How does that idea compare with X's idea?
- What do you think about X's idea?
- Whose thinking has changed as a result of this conversation? How and why has it changed?
- Now that you've heard _____ (summarize the conversation so far) _____, what are you thinking? What are you still wondering about?

Wait time is useful for meeting each conversation goal. Allow enough time after asking a question for students to think through their responses, and before responding to student responses to encourage students to add more information.