

Goals for Productive Discussions and Nine Talk Moves

Goal One Help Individual Students Share, Expand and Clarify Their Own Thinking

1. Time to Think

Partner Talk
Writing as Think Time
Wait Time

2. Say More:

“Can you say more about that?”
“What do you mean by that?”
“Can you give an example?”

3. Revoicing

“So, let me see if I’ve got what you’re saying. Are you saying...?”
(always leaving a space for the original student to agree or disagree and say more)

Goal Two Help Students Listen Carefully to One Another

4. Rephrase/Repeat/Restate

“Who can repeat what Nico just said or put it into their own words?”
(After a partner talk) “What did your partner say?”

Goal Three Help Students Deepen Their Reasoning

5. Asking for Evidence or Reasoning

“Why do you think that?”
“What’s your evidence?”
“How did you arrive at that conclusion?”

6. Challenge or Counterexample

“Does it always work that way?”
“How does that idea square with Tonya’s example?”
“What if _____ had happened instead?”

Goal Four Help Students Think With Others

7. Apply Your Own Reasoning

“Do you agree/disagree? (And why?)”
“What do people think about what Leslie said?”
“Does anyone want to respond to that idea?”

8. Add On:

“Who can add onto the idea that Anna is building?”
“Can anyone take that suggestion and push it a little further?”

9. Explaining What Someone Else Means

“Who can explain what Hala means when she says that?”
“Who thinks they could explain why Klarissa came up with that answer?”
“Why do you think he said that?”

Talk Moves Scenarios for Discussion

Instructions:

1. In groups of 4-6, select 1 teacher to facilitate the discussion.
2. As a group, agree on an interesting topic to discuss (some examples provided below).
3. The teacher will pose the question to be discussed to the group.
4. Both teacher and participants use their talk moves to have productive dialogue.
5. Use the sentence frames to express your thinking when applicable.

Examples of Discussion Topics For Your Group:

- Should cell phones be allowed in schools?
- Should school be year round?
- Should schools stop using standardized testing?
- Should schools require uniforms for all students?
- Should all students be required to perform 1 year of community service before graduating?
- Should all people be vegetarians?
- Are Macs better than PCs?
- Should handwriting be a required subject in elementary?
- Should all students be expected to graduate in 4 years?

• **The Plagiarized Report**

You are an English teacher at a high school. One of your pupils is a very bright and gifted girl, whom you have always enjoyed teaching. She has always achieved A grades throughout her school years, and is now in her final year and getting ready to graduate. Unfortunately she has been very ill this term, and missed several weeks of schooling. She has just turned in a report which is worth 40% of her final grade, but you realize that she did not write it herself – she has copied a report found online and tried to pass it off as her own work.

If you report her plagiarism to the school authorities it will be entered on her permanent record and she will no longer be eligible to attend the prestigious university that she has dreamed of attending all through high school. If you refuse to accept the report, her final mark will be very poor and may harm her chances of being chosen for this university. If you mark the paper as though you believed it was her own work, she will do very well, and stand every chance of getting her desired university place. What should you do?