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Promoting Conversation in the Classroom

Remember to:

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- · Tailor your class with personalized vocabulary
- Find relevant, provocative and playful contexts for language learning
- Use exclamation, segues and connectors
- Incorporate reactions: surprise, disbelief, horror, encouragement and interest
- · Teach ways to disagree and agree
- Get to know your students and their cognitive understanding, and linguistic and emotional resources they offer



- Culturally and linguistically embedded
- Change with interlocutor and audience
- Miscommunication can lead to issues of equity and participation in the classroom and have negative consequences on student motivation, participation and learning (Michaels, Shouse, Schweingruber, 2008)









Use Scientific Conversations to:

- · Discuss data and results
- Describe observations
- · Provide reasons
- · Make arguments and develop positions
- Provide evidence and challenge others
- · Tell stories

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Benefits of Effective Science Conversations

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- Assist in improving ability to build scientific arguments and reason logically
- Talking about their thinking helps them reflect, participate in and build on scientific thinking
- · Bring to light discrepancies in their thinking
- Provide motivation by giving them a change to offer their voice, claims and position on issues



Additional Activities

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- 1. Have students read and discuss instance where different definitions of a word are used
- 2. Discuss how they understand the word
- 3. Compare and contrast the scientific use of the word to common or multiple meanings of the words

Vary Types of Oral Interaction

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- Conversation with a partner, small group, whole group
- Role plays should create a situation that needs resolution
- Hearings have an "expect" group that discuss a topical question and may be interviewed by fellow students who have to make the final decision Use unusual images to start conversation
- Forced Contribution, such as numbered heads, which ensure that all group members give their opinion or contribute
- Guided conversations allows students to use a narrative Recreating the narration with picture supports while pushing student to produce more oral language
- Small Talk/Party Talk has students walking around talking to each other about a specific topic

MAINE Information Gap

Task Based Activities

- Missing information: asking and answering questions Incomplete crossword: describing, defining and
- guessing Spot the difference:
- description and comprehension
- Use images to complete the story or lyrics prior to listening and confirming
- Finding places on a map

Conversation based on Images

- Student 1: Comes to the front of the class and views the image. Returns to their partner and describes the image.
- Student 2: Listens to • student 1 and draws the image described.





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Science Conversation Starter in Concentric Circles Focus: What can you tell me about rocks?

Word Bank	
Rocks	metamorphic
Minerals	igneous
Hardness	sedimentary
Color	composition
Luster	properties
Cleavage	physical processes
Streak	

OUTSIDE SPEAKER Conversation/discussion sentence stems

What can you tell me about ...?

Can you explain the process of ...?

What was your procedure for ...?

Tell me more about that...

What do you mean by ...?

What else did you observe ...? (observation)

How do you know? (observation/evidence)

Why is that important? (argument/position/reasoning)

What does that remind you of? (Storytelling)

(All rocks are made from minerals.)



INSIDE SPEAKER

Response/conversation starters

For this experimental procedure I/we...

I observed

My data shows/suggests ...

I/we found evidence ...

I argue that...

My position is ...

I feel knowing _____ is important because....

It is important to understand ______ because....