

Talk Moves

We will be using Lucy West's Talk Moves to improve or oral and written communication skills.

Adults:

- Ask students to explain the thinking behind their answers whether they are right or not
- Ask students if they agree or disagree with another student's answer and why
- Ask student to comment or add onto another student's response or idea
- Ask follow-up questions that are similar to ones just discussed to see if a student really understands
- Ask students to make connections to something another said or something else they know
- Uses wait time to allow thinking space for students before they articulate their ideas
- Ask questions to surface discrepancies between what a student says and the information in front of them

Students

- Do the majority of the talking
- Are expected to explain their thinking
- Show that they are listening to one another
- Are willing to openly admit confusion
- Challenge each other's thinking non-judgementally
- Take initiative to explain another student's thinking, including how they might have made an error
- Are able to pose questions when they do understand
- Are able to speak to one another without using the teacher as a conduit

Metamorphosis: Teacher Talk Moves and Classroom Norms That Promote the Development of a Community of Discourse

Adapted by Toni Cameron from 22 Verbal Events in a Class that Lets Kids Get Smart

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