Title: Accountable Talk

The Basics

What? Structured discussion of a text

When? During and after reading a text

Why? Enables students to develop understanding of a text and to improve communication skills

Student Outcomes

This strategy helps students refine their understanding of texts to meet reading expectations, engage in group conversations to meet speaking and listening expectations, and prepare for writing about texts.

How to Implement

1. Establish procedures and expectations of accountable talk with students, stressing the importance of giving text-based evidence for responses.
2. Choose a text for students to read.
3. Develop open-ended questions about the text. Note: Questions may be about specific passages of a text and/or the entire text.
4. Ask students the developed questions that correspond with text. Allow ample time for students to think about their responses.
5. Provide conversation stems for students to respond to the questions and engage in conversation. Samples of conversation stems are included in the "Resources for Additional Information."
6. Prompt students to respond to each other and build on each other's ideas using Talk Moves. Samples of Talk Move prompts are included in the "Resources for Additional Information."

Resources for Additional Information

- A video explanation of Talk Moves teachers can use in the classroom
- Implementation guide that includes downloadable sentence stems for students
- Student conversation stems: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12
- Teacher Talk Moves
- Brief video describing and demonstrating the "Turn and Talk" strategy
- Brief video illustrating teacher use of Talk Moves
- Examples of how to use in lessons: Grades 3-5, Grades 6-8, Grades 9-12