

# Discourse: Shared Talking in the Balanced Literacy Classroom

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# Defining classroom discourse

- What is your definition of discourse?
- How do you support discourse in your classroom?
- What does discourse look like in your classroom?

# Defining classroom discourse

- children interacting with one another and having stimulating discussions
- shared talking
- teacher steps back and allows the students to do the talking
- teacher facilitates and observes → formative assessment

# TALK DEVELOPS THINKING

- Listener can participate with whiteboards (text, pictures)
- Teacher models how students can get meaning from text
- Accountable talk
- Share: How do you model, support accountable talk? How can you improve?



# SMALL GROUP/GUIDED INSTRUCTION

- ★ Students have space to shape ideas and reach new meanings
- ★ Teacher led, but students still talk.
- ★ Students explain understanding, provide feedback and reflect.



"Guided reading lessons are the perfect venue for small-group classroom discourse and shared talk to shine and come alive."

-Dr. Margaret PolICASTRO

# COLLABORATIVE TASKS/CENTERS



- Students work with peers and on teams.
- Discourse is essential when teams work together to solve problems, find evidence and build arguments.
- Discourse and shared talking are natural.
- What do your centers look like?  
Turn and talk!



# INDEPENDENT TASKS

Let's brainstorm how you can incorporate:

- Self Talk
- Feedback
- Reporting



# RESOURCES

Checking for understanding. Fisher and Frey. 2014. ASCD.

"Discourse: The Importance of Talk in the Balanced Literacy Classroom." Dr. Margaret Mary Policastro. Illinois Reading Council Journal. Volume 45, No. 1, Winter 2016-17

Formative Assessment in the New Balanced Literacy Classroom. Policastro, McTague and Mazeski. 2016. Capstone Professional.

Visible Learning for Literacy. Fisher, Frey and Hattie. 2016. Corwin.