Teach Intellectual

Habits of Discourse

Reading and writing float on a sea of talk. Learn how to navigate an intellectual exchange of ideas.

101 HABITS - CREATE CONVERSATION	
CORE HABIT	**KEY DISCUSSION MOVES**
Project	• Speak audibly and make eye contact with classmates, not just the teacher.
Share in turn	• Speak in turn. • Invite others in. *"We haven't heard from everyone yet. Would someone who hasn't spoken yet like a chance?"*
Speak as an intellectual	• Use classmates' names. • Use complete sentences. • Address questions succinctly.
Listen as an intellectual	• Make eye contact with the speaker. • Nod or affirm nonverbally. • Turn to page if speaker references it (pause to give time to turn to page).
Take notes as an intellectual	• Write down/summarize key information. • Evaluate the arguments. • Annotate diagrams. • Share exemplary student notes for students to see a model.
Build & Critique	**Agree with all or parts of ideas and elaborate:** • *"I agree that…but I would add…."* • *"Mark's point is right, but/and I think there is better/additional evidence for it…"*
	Disagree • *"Actually, there is evidence in the text that refutes that view."* • *"Respectfully, I have a different view."*
	Examine evidence in a different way. • *"I actually viewed that text differently."*

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201 HABITS – DEEPEN DISCOURSE	
CORE HABIT	**KEY DISCUSSION MOVES**
Activate or Drop Knowledge	*"X is…."* *"I've heard of X. It means…."* *"I'd like to connect Leon's interpretation to the article we read about the Harlem Renaissance."*
Revoice	*"What you're arguing is X."* *"If I understand you correctly, are you saying X [paraphrase argument]?"*
Press for Reasoning	*"Why do you think [rephrase argument]?"* *"What evidence supports your argument?"* *"How do you know?"* *"Could you walk me through your thought process?"*
Problematize	- Name or provoke debate: *"It sounds like we're divided between X and Y. I think…"* - Name contradictions: *"Rene and Gabriel have opposite readings of X. I think…"* - Play devil's advocate: *"I'm going to play devil's advocate here. What if I argued…"*
Sophisticate	- Zoom in & out: *"I want to focus on the connotations of X."* *"X is important because…."*, "Y creates or makes Z in the text."* - Dive deeper into the text: *"Let's turn to page XX. Does it support or challenge our theory?"* - Apply within different or new context/perspective: *"What do you think ___ would think about X?"* - Give a hypothetical: *"What if…"* *"I have a theory I'd like your opinions on…"*