



Student Oracy Assessment Project

Overview

Voice 21 is coordinating a research project to improve teacher-focused tools for assessing students' oracy in the classroom. The aim of the project is to develop a common tool that can be used by teachers across the UK, which tracks students' progress over time, links feedback clearly to 'next steps' and permits comparison of students regardless of changes in assessor or school.

To register your school to take part in this project, [please sign up here](#) by Wednesday 26 February.

If you have any questions about this project, please get in touch with Amanda Moorghen, amanda@voice21.org

Why take part?

Questions about how to assess oracy are some of the most frequently asked by teachers Voice 21 works with. Is every student making progress? How can I know? How can I track and record this? How can progress in oracy be shared with students and their families in a way that is meaningful?

We want to create an oracy assessment tool which helps to answer some of these questions - and we hope that you and your school will join us!

Our Student Oracy Assessment research project will:

- Draw upon existing academic research and frameworks for oracy assessment
- Consult with practitioners and experts about the design of an assessment tool.
- Trial the tool with at least 20 teachers and 240 students, across years 5, 6 and 7.
- Collect and review video footage for oracy tasks to standardise scoring.
- Survey and interview teachers to gather their feedback about the usefulness of the assessment tool.

By Autumn 2020, we aim to have developed the first iteration of an oracy assessment tool to be accessed and used by the thousands of teachers Voice 21 is working with.

Requirements for joining

If you and your school sign up to take part in this project, we would ask you to commit to:

- Recruiting at least 12 students in Years 5, 6 or 7, and obtaining parents'/carers' consent for their child to participate. Voice 21 will provide a consent letter for this.
- Recruiting at least 2 teachers into the project, both of whom would assess their students, either "live" or via recorded footage.



- Attending one 60 minute webinar training on the use of the assessment tool after school on Monday 9th March or Tuesday 10th March.
- Returning student and parental consent forms for all participating students; and consent forms from all participating teachers
- Completing, recording and assessing a task of approximately 20 minutes, at two points in the school year (once in March/April; once in June/July). This would involve assessing all 12 participating students, who would complete the task in groups of three. As the task needs to be recorded, students are likely to need to complete this task in a quiet space (it is rarely possible to record a group in an ordinary classroom setting).
- Submitting recorded footage and completed assessments to Voice 21
- Completing student and teacher surveys twice in the school year (after each task-assessment, so once in March/April; once in June/July). Surveys are anticipated to take approx. 10 minutes for students, and 20 minutes for teachers.

As a school in this project, you will receive:

- Access to resources surrounding the use of oracy assessment, including webinar training on the use of this specific tool
- Access to optional training (via webinar) on the use of oracy in the classroom - this training can be accessed by any teacher in participating schools, not just those registered for the project. It will focus on assessment task, but cover wider principles of oracy teaching
- Access to an online Voice 21 space for participants in the project. This space will host oracy resources and the opportunity for discussion with other schools on the project
- Access to remote support from Voice 21 to ensure full confidence in the facilitation of the assessment task and use of the assessment tool
- Feedback from Voice 21 throughout the life of the project sharing learning around best practice in oracy assessment, and where the data permits helping schools to understand the progress of their students over time, and in comparison with other schools on the project.

Project timeline

February 2020	School recruitment
February - March 2020	School onboarding -MOUs -Project packs (resources, guides etc.) -On-boarding documents (consent forms etc.)
March 2020	Initial training webinars -Using the assessment tool -Facilitating the assessment task
March 2020	Task-Assessment One



	-Students assessed, footage and assessments returned to Voice 21
March 2020	Students and teachers complete their post-task survey
April 2020	First project update from Voice 21 to participating schools
June-July 2020	Task-Assessment Two -Students assessed, footage and assessments returned to Voice 21
June-July 2020	Students and teachers complete their end of project survey
August 2020	Second project update from Voice 21 to participating schools
October 2020	Final project update from Voice 21 - to include any newly developed resources and materials created as a result of this project.