



**Teacher Talk Tactics** scaffold classroom dialogue, promoting educationally productive talk. Teachers have two additional tactics to employ in order to foster high-quality talk for learning.



### Instigate

Present an idea or open up a new line of enquiry.

#### Instigate:

- Let's start the discussion by...
- Has anyone considered...
- Let's think about...

#### Invite instigation:

- Who would like to begin our discussion...?
- Does anyone have another idea...?
- Would anybody like to share a different point?

Instigate



### Summarise

Identify and recap the main ideas.

#### Summarise:

- So far we have talked about...
- The main points raised today were...
- To summarise X's idea?

#### Invite summary

- Can anybody summarise the main points so far?
- Could you summarise what X is saying?
- Who can recap the main ideas?

Summarise



### Probe

Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas.

#### Probe:

- Why do you think...?
- Could you provide an example of...?
- How do you know that?

#### Invite probing:

- Would anyone like to probe what X said?
- Who would like to ask a probing question?
- Does this remind you of anything we've learned before?

Probe



### Build

Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea.

#### Build:

- Building on X's idea...
- X's idea made me think...
- To develop X's idea...

#### Invite building

- Would anybody like to build on X's idea?
- Could you tell me more about..?
- Who can tell me why they might agree with X?

Build



### Challenge

Disagree or present an alternative argument

#### Challenge:

- Have you considered...?
- You mentioned X but what about...?
- What if...?

#### Invite challenge:

- Would anybody like to challenge X's idea?
- Does anybody have a counter argument?
- Who disagrees with that point?

Challenge



### Clarify

Asking questions to make things clearer and check your understanding

#### Clarify:

- So are you saying...?
- Let me get this right, what you're saying is...?
- Can you clarify what you mean by...?

#### Invite clarification

- Could anybody clarify what X is saying?
- Would anybody like to ask a clarifying question?
- Could I just check your understanding X?

Clarify

#### Additional moves:



### Model

Articulate the thought processes underpinning talk.

#### Model

- I'm not sure I agree with that so I'm going to challenge X's idea...
- I am going to clarify X's point to check I've understood correctly...
- It would be a good idea to summarise the points so far to help us move forward...
- I am going to refer to X to provide evidence for my point...

Model



### Mark

Highlight an important idea or type of contribution

#### Mark

- That's an important point.
- Did everyone hear what X just said? How does that help move us on?
- Did you notice how X just probed X's idea?
- What did X say to challenge X's idea politely?

Mark

The additional teacher tactics are inspired by the 'Teacher Moves in Group Discussion' as set out in the Accountable Talk Sourcebook (Michaels et al., 2016)