Great Oracy Exhibition 2025

Scaffolding talk - how much is too much?

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Introductions - an experiment

Get into pairs or small groups

Label yourselves A, B, C etc.

Take turns to introduce yourself starting with A.

Use the sentence stems:

Hi my name is...
I work for...
Today I've seen...



Listeners, use the following talk tactics and sentence stems to find out more.

Probe

Dig deeper, ask for evidence or justification of ideas



What did you find most interesting about..?

Build

Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea.



I also saw...and I thought...

What 3 words?

Describe the characteristics of effective scaffolding in 3 words.



What is scaffolding?

"What the notion of scaffolding offers...is a way of conceptualising the process whereby one person facilitates the progress of another person, thereby reducing the scope for failure."

Maybin et. al., 1992, p. 188



Scaffolds for oracy

What scaffolds for oracy do you use in your school?



Scaffolds for oracy



Talk Tactics Talk tactics encourage students to think strategically about their contributions to group talk





Instigate

Present an idea or open up a new line of enquiry

Start by saying:

- I would like to start by saying...
- I think....
- We haven't yet talked about...

Instigate



- So are you saying ...?
- Does that mean ...?
- Can you clarify what you mean by?

Clarify



Probe

Dig deeper, ask for vidence or justification

Start by saying:

- Why do you think ...?
- What evidence do you have to support X idea?
- Could you provide an example?

Probe



Summarise

Identify and recap the main ideas

Start by saving:

- So far we have talked about...
- The main points raised today were..
- Our discussion focused on...

Summarise



Challenge

Disagree or present an alternative argument

Start by saying:

- I disagree because...
- To challenge you X, I think...
- I understand your point of view, but have you thought about ...?

Challenge



Build

Develop, add to or elaborate on an idea.

Start by saying:

- Building on X's idea...
- I agree and would like to add...
- X's idea made me think...

Build

What is the **intent** of Talk Tactics and sentence stems?



Scaffolds for oracy

"[Sentence starters] can get in the way, blocking thought processes [...] and making students sound stilted and inauthentic"

McCallum, 2024



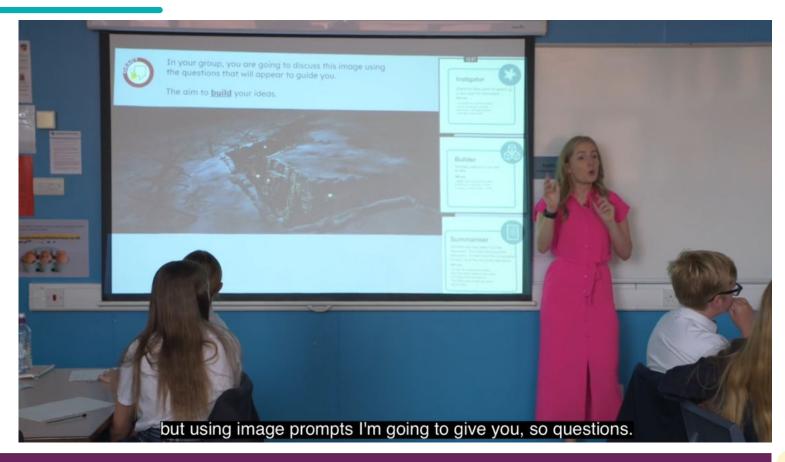
Inside Oracy Education



What have we learnt as part of our research project *Inside Oracy Education?*



Scaffolding oracy





Scaffolding oracy in your school for oracy



How might you develop the use of scaffolding for oracy in your school?



Final word

"Where scaffolding scholars emphasise reducing degrees of freedom, dialogic teaching scholars stress the opening of a space of possibilities.

In our view, both need to happen - just like breathing in and breathing out. In this respect, scaffolding and dialogic teaching processes could be complementary."

Bekker et. al., 2015, p. 1062

