

Options for Creating Conversation Assessment Tools

Conversation skills

Students:

- Create, generate, pose relevant and useful idea(s) to talk about; stick to the prompt.
- Clarify and know when to prompt for clarification.
- Support ideas with evidence and reasoning, and know when to prompt for support.
- Compare and evaluate the strength of ideas.
- Negotiate and challenge ideas.
- Build on ideas; refer to relevant known and given information, and add appropriate new information.
- Take equitable turns.
- Listen.

Maxims and Dispositions

Students:

- Contribute not more or less information than is required at the current stage of the conversation.
- Don't say ideas that they think are false or ideas that lack evidence.
- Try to be as clear as they can.
- Stay relevant to the current stage of the conversation.
- Help partners think more deeply about the topic.
- Allow partners to help each other think more deeply about this topic.
- Come to understand this topic better during conversation.
- Work with partners, not against, even if they disagree at times.
- Remain open to learning new ideas and having ideas change during conversation.

Oral Language Skills

Students:

- Use appropriate vocabulary.
- Combine and connect complete sentences.
- Use pronunciation, intonation, and prosody.
- Use facial expressions, posture, and gestures.