

TALK MOVES

Talk Moves are designed to create a classroom culture where students are regularly expected to speak, listen, and respond to one another. Each gesture serves a different purpose in establishing and/or maintaining a dynamic conversation.

Introduce Talk Moves one at a time, giving students ample time to learn the hand signals, the sentence starters, and the cognitive meanings behind each one.




ANSWER

- ▶ I have an idea...
- ▶ I'm thinking...

"Thumbs up" is used to indicate that a student has had enough time to think and is prepared with an answer.

- ▶ I've been giving it some thought...
- ▶ I know what I'd like to say.
- ▶ I'm ready to answer.



REPEAT

- ▶ I can restate what he said.
- ▶ I heard _____ say that...

Rotating his index fingers, a student reveals he heard what a classmate said and can restate it.

- ▶ I can paraphrase what _____ said.
- ▶ I heard what _____ said and can revoice it.
- ▶ I listened and can repeat it.



CONFUSED

- ▶ Could you say that again?
- ▶ I don't understand.

The raised arm and flat hand indicates a student is unsure of the question, the answer, or the content of the conversation.

- ▶ HELP! I'm lost.
- ▶ I'm not following the conversation.
- ▶ I need someone to *repeat* and/or *clarify* what was said.



AGREE

- ▶ That's what I was thinking.
- ▶ I was going to say that, too!

With a thumb pointing at himself and a pinkie pointing to the speaker, a student can show agreement.

- ▶ I believe that as well.
- ▶ That's the same answer I got.
- ▶ ___ is on the right track.



ADD ON

- ▶ I would add that...
- ▶ When ___ said that, it made me think about...

Stacking fists represents that a student would like to add or build onto a peer's original idea.

- ▶ In addition...
- ▶ Building on what ___ said, I can add...
- ▶ When ___ said that, it made me think about...



SUPPORT

- ▶ In the text it states...
- ▶ I know that is correct because...

Representing the pages of a text, students use their hands to reveal that they can offer proof or evidence.

- ▶ For example,...
- ▶ That's true because...
- ▶ In fact,...



DISAGREE

- ▶ I respectfully disagree with...
- ▶ Another way to look at it is...

Tapping the head is a respectful way to indicate an alternative opinion or response.

- ▶ I have a different thought.
- ▶ I hear what ___ is saying, but what about...
- ▶ I'm wondering about...



CLARIFY

- ▶ I know what ___ means. He's saying...
- ▶ Another way to say it is...

Forming a complete triangle with two hands symbolizes how one student can reiterate a peer's response more clearly.

- ▶ He is saying that...
- ▶ In other words...
- ▶ I get it. ___ means that...