

“One nonnegotiable is selecting texts that speak to the hearts and minds of readers.” —Nancy Boyles

“Good conversation depends on giving kids the opportunity to ask real questions about real issues and ideas.” —Jim Burke

“When students discuss open-ended, interpretive questions they compose and they lead the discussion, they learn to collaborate, communicate, and analyze texts, investing wholeheartedly in meaningful, productive discussions.”
—Laura Robb

“Productive conversations stem from students taking charge and talking about their own ideas and questions. It begins with authentic curiosity and ownership.”
—Gravity Goldberg

“Have a discussion framed around a problem that kids can help to solve, like an essential question they care about, or how a text worked to create meaning and effect.” —Jeffrey Wilhelm

“Productive classroom discussion requires providing students a problem worth talking about and lots of data to talk with.”
—Michael Smith

“A classroom climate of respect is key. Students need to feel comfortable putting their thoughts into the open and taking risks.”
—Janiel Wagstaff

“Autonomy and trust undergird the intellectual risk-taking necessary for transformative student (and teacher) discussion.” —ReLeah Cossett Lent

“Start with a tiny piece of writing. Talking about the words on that paper can alleviate 'speaker's block' or redirect discussions gone off-track.”
—Gretchen Bernabei

“Rich discussions start with listening; students need to be heard and understand that their words have meaning. Trust the kids to be brilliant!”
—Leslie Blauman

“Productive classroom discussions best occur when students engage in collective problem solving.” —Wiley Blevins

“Trust fosters collaborative conversations. Teachers and students must have strong relationships for this to work.”
—Douglas Fisher

“The questions are everything! Productive classroom discussions are fueled by questions that cause students to think critically, listen closely, and respond thoughtfully.” —Nancy Frey

Productive Classroom Talk