

Comparing Talk



Context

There is currently no measure of students' oracy suitable for use for schools to reliably & regularly understand their students' progress as compared to the national picture, or for Voice 21 to monitor its direct impact on students.

The aim of 'Comparing Talk' is to develop an oracy assessment that enables schools to understand the impact of their provision on students' oracy skills, and to monitor progress.

Opportunity

There is an opportunity to trial a 'comparative judgement' approach to the assessment of oracy. This relies on some technical solutions (an online platform; teachers'/schools' access to and familiarity with video-recording equipment) that have only recently become practical at scale.

Aims

Year One (Feb - Aug 2022):

1. Trial the use of a comparative judgement approach to the assessment of oracy to find out:
 - What does this approach enable schools and teachers to learn about students' oracy?
 - What does "good" oracy look like in EYFS & Yrs5-8? (Providing a scale of exemplar videos.)
 - What are the limitations of a comparative judgement approach, and how can these be mitigated?
2. Develop, through the above, an assessment tool that can be used at a larger scale in Year Two of the project.

Year Two (Sept - Aug 2023)

1. Pilot the assessment tool developed in Year One:
 - What are the strengths and limitations of this assessment tool in the contexts in which it is used?
 - In what ways can the use of this tool be further supported (e.g. through additional training materials) to maximise validity?
 - In what ways does this tool need to be developed further to be suitable across all ages and phases?

Timeline

Jan - Feb 2022	Recruitment into Year One
Feb - Apr 2022	Submission of video content
Apr - May 2022	Teacher-led adjudication
Jun - Aug 2022	Further adjudication and analysis
Sep 2022 - Aug 2023	Year Two

Comparing Talk - further information for schools and teachers



How to sign up:

To register your school to take part in Year One (Feb-Jul 2022) of this project, please [sign up here](#) by **28 February 2022**. To find out more, email amanda@voice21.org or join us for an introductory webinar and Q&A on **22 February 2022, 4pm**.

Why take part?

Questions about how to assess oracy are some of the most frequently asked by the teachers we work with. Is every student making progress? How can I know? How can I track and record this? How can progress in oracy be shared with students and their families in a way that is meaningful?

We want to create an oracy assessment process which helps to answer some of these questions - and we hope that you and your school will join us!

Participating schools will receive:

- Access to the webinar **“Introduction to Oracy and Oracy Assessment”, Tues 8 March, 4-5pm** - unlimited places to staff in participating schools
- Through piloting our assessment tool, the ability to develop your understanding of students’ oracy, including:
 - A scaled score of each student’s oracy task, showing how they compare to students in your own and other participating schools
 - Qualitative feedback on each student’s oracy task, both from teachers in other participating schools, and from our panel of expert adjudicators
- Access to the workshop **“Using your Oracy Assessment Results” (Summer term)** - developing expert practice as oracy assessors

What will I need to do?

Participating schools will need to:

- Complete and video the assessment task with 6+ students (the task will take up to 20 minutes per group of three) before Easter
 - Students should be from either EYFS or Years 5-8
 - For Years 5-8 the assessment task will involve a short group exploratory talk task, with an individual presentational reflective component.
- Commit to providing approx. 30 minutes of teacher-assessment time, per group of 6 students recruited into the project, in the first half of Summer term (this can be spread across multiple staff members at school)
- Ensure at least one participating teacher is able to attend the introductory webinar (1hr) and workshop (1hr)
- Ensure all participating teachers complete the project evaluation survey
- Return consent forms for all participating students