

Class discussion/Student seminar/Accountable Talk

Providing opportunities for students to engage in a seminar-style discussion gives them practice becoming confident learners. This structure can be adapted and used at any level. It also breaks up the regular pattern of the teacher being the expert and the students directing most of their questions to the teacher.

Have students sit in a circle, either in chairs or on the floor. Prepare students by going over the expectations. This [half-sheet](#) copied on two sides might be a useful resource for students.

Learning requires speaking and listening. Accountable talk is another word for this. When students get practice questioning each other and sharing academic ideas, they prepare themselves to become critical thinkers. Many teachers have sentence starters for this purpose. Here is [a half-page](#) with some suggestions for student use.

Resources:

AVID

[Guidelines for class discussion](#)

[Accountable Talk Bookmark](#)

[More on socratic seminar](#) from Facing History and Ourselves