Discourse: Shared Talking in the Balanced Literacy Classroom

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Defining classroom discourse

What is your definition of discourse?

How do you support discourse in your classroom?

What does discourse look like in your classroom?
Defining classroom discourse

- children interacting with one another and having stimulating discussions
- shared talking
- teacher steps back and allows the students to do the talking
- teacher facilitates and observes -> formative assessment
Talk develops thinking

- Listener can participate with whiteboards (text, pictures)
- Teacher models how students can get meaning from text
- Accountable talk
- Share: How do you model, support accountable talk? How can you improve?
Small Group/Guided Instruction

★ Students have space to shape ideas and reach new meanings
★ Teacher led, but students still talk.
★ Students explain understanding, provide feedback and reflect.

"Guided reading lessons are the perfect venue for small-group classroom discourse and shared talk to shine and come alive".

-Dr. Margaret Policastro
Collaborative tasks/centers

➔ Students work with peers and on teams.
➔ Discourse is essential when teams work together to solve problems, find evidence and build arguments.
➔ Discourse and shared talking are natural.

What do your centers look like? Turn and talk!
Debate center

Promotes conversation, argument and debate based on evidence

Metric vs. Standard units - Which system should the United States use?

Urban vs. Rural - Where is the best place for a teacher to live?

Brainstorm: How can you use this in your classroom this school year?
INDEPENDENT TASKS

Let's brainstorm how you can incorporate:

➔ Self Talk
➔ Feedback
➔ Reporting
Checking for Understanding. Fisher and Frey. 2014. ASCD.

