

Preparing students for exploratory talk

Resource theme: Dialogue in student groups

Resource type: Core Reading

Time required: 15 minutes

The **'Preparing students for exploratory talk'** reading outlines the importance of preparing students for discussion activities, and details strategies for doing so.

The content of this resource is adapted, with permission, from the Thinking Together resources (<http://thinkingtogether.educ.cam.ac.uk/>).

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Preparing students for exploratory talk

Adapted from the Thinking Together resources (Talking Points for Three Shakespeare Plays - Dawes, 2013)

About Talking Points

Talking Points are thought-provoking statements, which can support discussion if presented to well-prepared students. Initially students may need to be offered key phrases which will help them to generate exploratory talk. Learning how to use such phrases – or ‘talk tools’ – is a life skill (Dawes, 2012).

Useful talk tools include:

‘What do you think? Why do you think that?’

‘I agree with this, because...’

‘I disagree with this, because...’

‘This reminds me’

‘Can you say more about...’

‘What does anyone think of that idea?’

‘I know that.....’

‘Do we all think - ?’