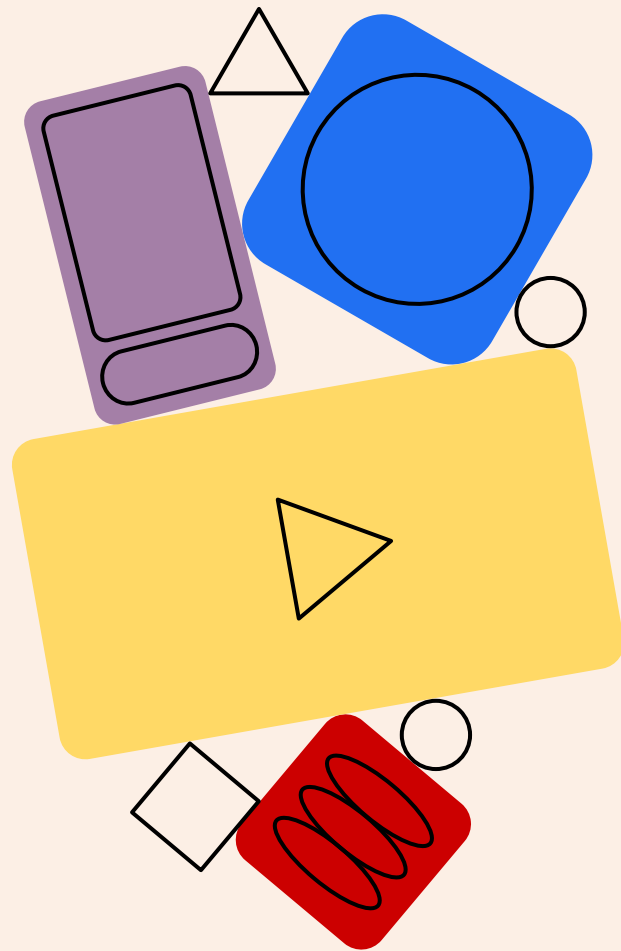


August 7, 2026

Academic Discourse

Making Student Thinking
Visible



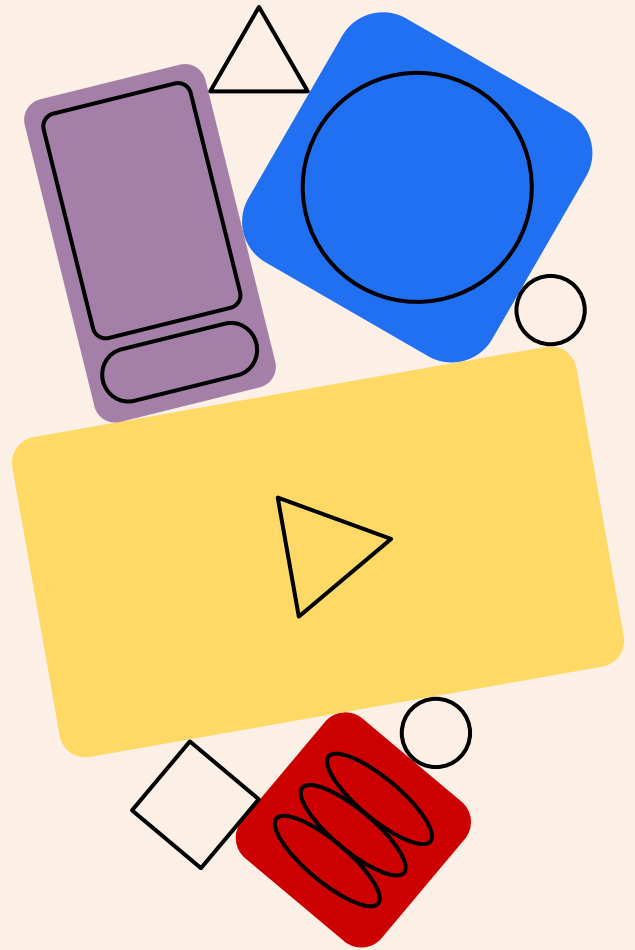
Learning Targets:

EXAMINE | what an academic conversations is.

EXPLORE | the connection between academic conversations and engaging students so that thinking is visible.

ANALYZE | ways to build a learning environment for academic conversations and to teach students what academic conversations are and how to have them

APPLY | what you have learned to create a plan for your classroom.



EXPLORE | strategies for increasing student engagement

Reducing passive student work time isn't about lowering expectations, it's about raising the opportunity for student thinking.

WHO'S DOING THE THINKING?	
TEACHER DOING THE THINKING	STUDENTS DOING THE THINKING
Teacher explains the steps to complete the problem	Students explain their thinking process to partners or groups
Teacher summarizes the solution	Students summarize thinking (maybe using sentence stems)
Teacher checks work	Students check one another's work (with criteria from teacher)

EXPLORE | strategies for increasing student engagement

Reducing passive student work time isn't about lowering expectations, it's about raising the opportunity for student thinking.

At your table, discuss:

In your current lesson delivery, what part of the lesson are students currently doing the most thinking? Where are they doing the least thinking? How can we make shifts in our delivery to make them more active thinkers?

Teacher checks work

Students check one another's work
(with criteria from teacher)

Increasing Student Engagement: What is classroom discourse?

- Fold or divide a notes page into 3 sections.
- Label as shown.
- Fill out the first two sections:

What I **KNOW** and

What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

KWL Chart		
What I KNOW	What do I think I WILL LEARN	What I LEARNED

As you watch think about:

- What are academic conversations?
- How is student thinking visible through academic conversations?
- What are components of academic conversations?
- How do you build academic conversation use in the classroom?
- How can you build an environment that fosters academic conversation?

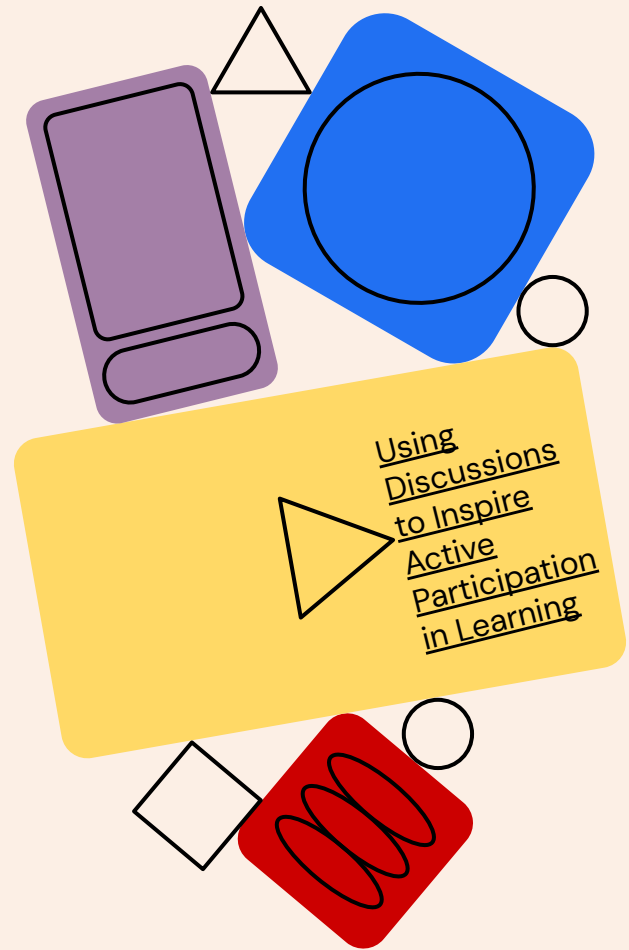


Debrief:

Classroom Discourse/Academic Conversations

- What are academic conversations?
- How is student thinking visible through academic conversations?
- What are components of academic conversations?
- How do you build academic conversation use in the classroom?
- How can you build an environment that fosters academic conversation?

How do we teach our students what an academic conversation is?



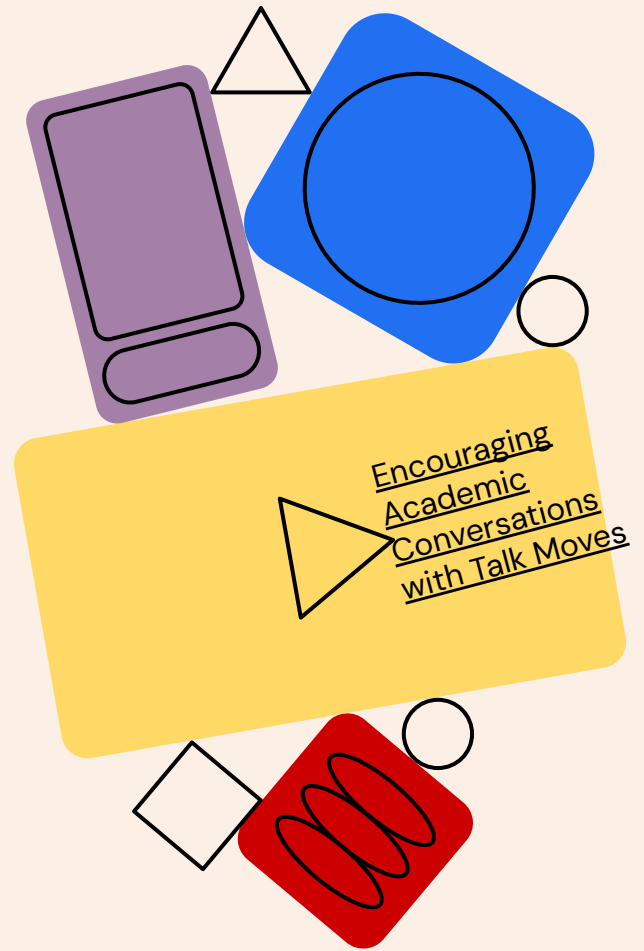
Debrief:

What I **KNOW**

What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

How do we teach our students what an academic conversation is?



Debrief:

What I **KNOW**

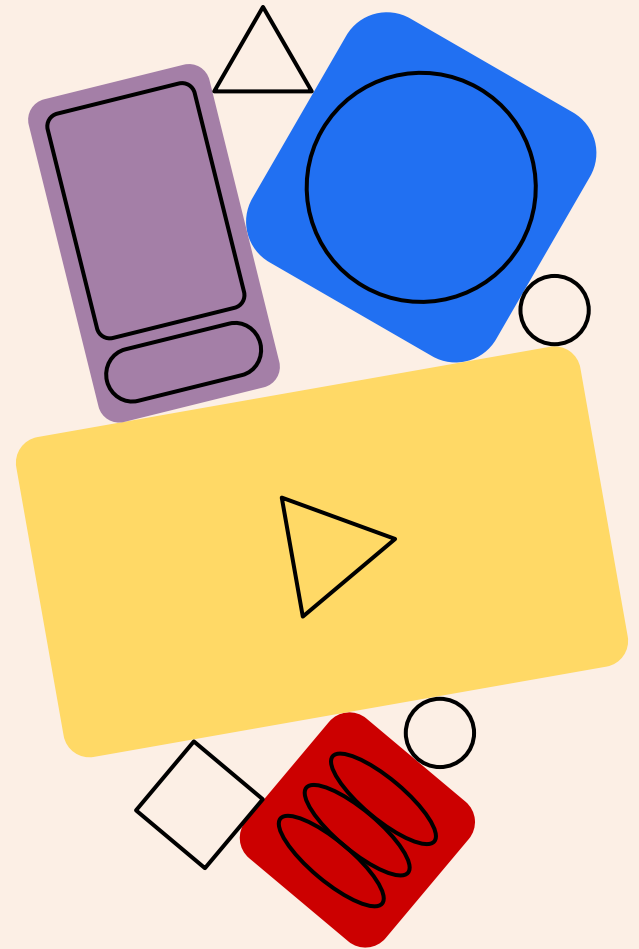
What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

How do we teach our students what an academic conversation is?

STEM Classrooms
(And teachers are asked to do
these strategies in all
classrooms)

Change the way you teach STEM classes with English Learners
with these teacher and student discourse moves.



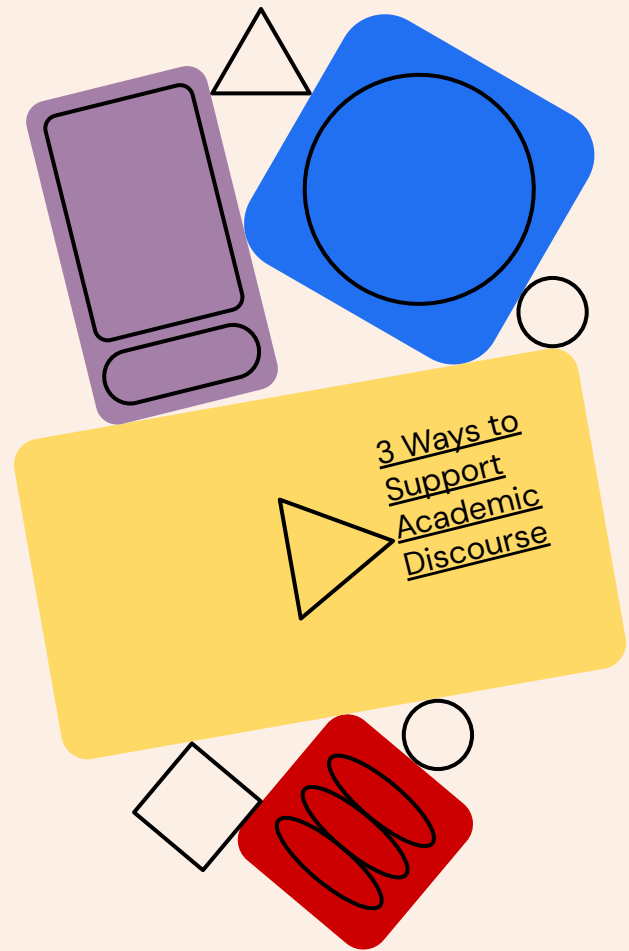
Debrief:

What I **KNOW**

What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

How do we teach our students what an academic conversation is?



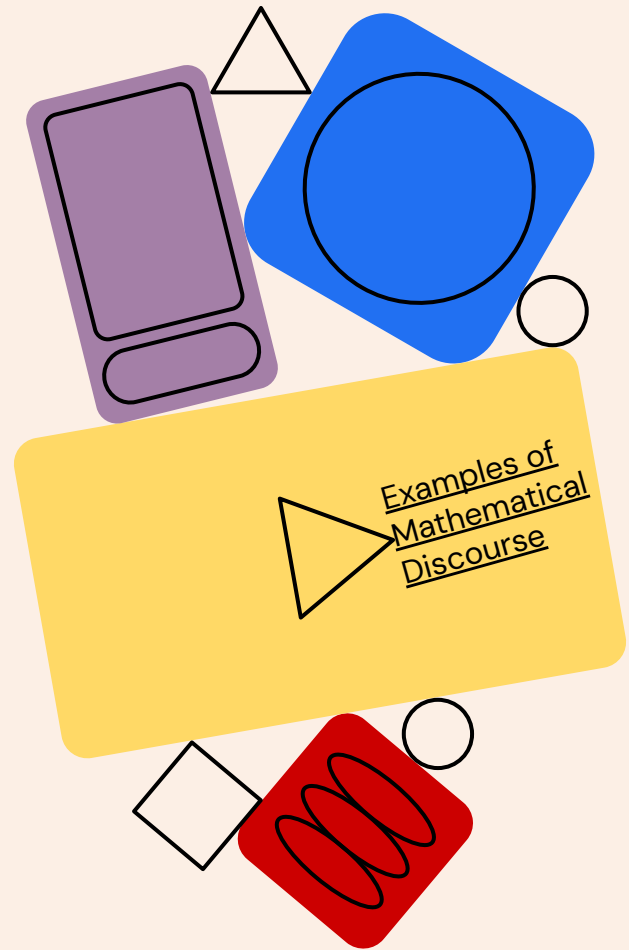
Debrief:

What I **KNOW**

What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

How do we teach our students what an academic conversation is?



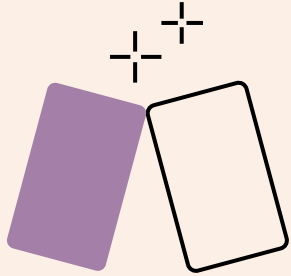
Debrief:

What I **KNOW**

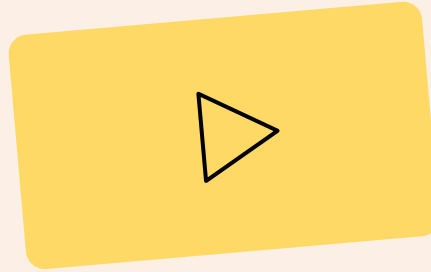
What do I think I **WILL LEARN**

What I **LEARNED**

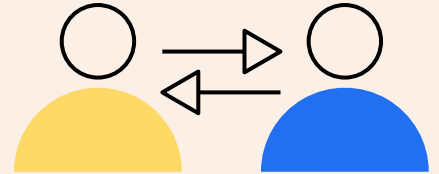
Building a Classroom Discourse Learning Environment



What is the connection between academic conversations and student engagement for visible thinking?



What are the components of academic conversations and what needs to be in place for successful student outcomes?



How will you build a learning community that includes academic conversations?

