

Learning Walk & Talk

A **Learning Walk & Talk** is a supportive, non-judgmental chat where students make learning visible by explaining how they explored ideas, made decisions, and created their work. Instead of focusing only on the final product, it looks at learning in action across any subject. Students show ownership by describing their process, demonstrating their understanding, and explaining the thinking behind their final product, including how they used tools (like AI) responsibly.

Start with a simple project timeline and a five-minute conversation using questions like the ones below.



Focus on the Process (The “How-To” of their work)

Instead of asking for proof of work, ask them to tell the story of their struggle and success.

- What was the hardest part, and how did you get past it?
- What choice did you make that changed your direction, and why?
- What tool or source helped most, and how did you decide it was trustworthy?



Focus on the Product (Higher-Order Thinking)

Instead of recall, these target “Cognitive Stretch”—applying and evaluating their work

- If you did this again without these sources, where would you look next?
- Why did you organize it this way, and how does that shape meaning?
- What is one question you still have that you could not answer yet?



Focusing on Performance (Seeing the Human Voice)

These questions help verify understanding by asking the student to “own” the content in real-time

- Walk me through your thinking in one key moment from your work.
- Explain your main idea in 30 seconds to someone outside this class.
- Point to one line or example you are proud of, and tell me why you wrote it that way.

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If AI was allowed here are some questions you might include in your Learning Walk & Talk depending on what the task and AI policy was.



Focus on the Decision-Making (The Why)

These questions help students make smart choices about AI, balancing tool use with independent thinking.

- What parts did you do with your own thinking, and what parts did you use AI for?
- Where did you choose not to use AI, and why?
- How did you decide when AI would help versus hurt your learning?



Focus on the Interaction (The "How")

These questions look at the quality of the student's prompts and their ability to challenge the tool

- Show me one prompt you improved. What did you change, and what got better?
- When did you disagree with AI, and how did you revise the result?
- What did you add to make the final work sound like you (voice, details, examples)?



Focus on Evaluation & Verification (The "Logic")

These questions build "calibrated trust" by requiring students to verify information and recognize the tool's limitations

- What did you double-check, and how did you verify it was true?
- What is one place AI could be wrong here (made-up facts, shaky logic), and how did you spot it?
- If AI helped with reasoning or steps, can you explain the logic in your own words?



Focus on Growth & Reflection (The "Stretch")

These address "Cognitive Debt" by making sure the student didn't "outsource" the struggle that leads to learning

- What is one thing you understand now that you did not at the start?
- What skill did you practice most (judgment, research, writing, problem-solving), and how do you know?
- If you did this again without AI, what would you do differently?