

Standards of Accountable Talk (Resnick, 1999)

1. Accountable to the Learning Community
2. Accountable to Knowledge
3. Accountable to Rigorous Thinking

Accountable to the Learning Community

- Participants are engaged in talk and are listening to one another
- Participants work to get everyone involved.
- Participants elaborate and build upon ideas and each others' contributions Participants ask each other questions aimed at clarifying or expanding a proposition

Accountable to Knowledge

- Participants make use of specific knowledge
- Participants provide evidence for claims and arguments

Accountable to Rigorous Thinking

- Participants synthesize several sources of information
- Participants test their own understanding of concepts.
- Students formulate conjectures and hypotheses.
- Students construct explanations
- Participants challenge the quality of each other's reasoning
- Participants use rational strategies to present arguments and draw conclusions

What is Accountable Talk?

- Talking with others about ideas and work is fundamental to learning.
- Not all talk sustains learning.
- For classroom talk to promote learning it must be accountable—to the learning community—to accurate and appropriate knowledge—and to rigorous standards of thinking and reasoning.
- Instructional time involves students in talk related to the concepts delineated in the standards. Talk is directly related to the content and procedures being studied.
- People intentionally create the norms and skills of accountable talk by:
 - 1) Modeling different protocols for discussion and questioning
 - 2) Probing and facilitating conversations among students
 - 3) Setting an expectation that discussion is the responsibility of all of the students and the teacher
- Accountable talk demands higher order thinking skills by asking students to use and create knowledge.
- Accountable talk responds to and further develops what others in the group have said. It puts forth and demands knowledge that is accurate and relevant to the issue being discussed.
- Accountable talk uses evidence appropriate to the discipline (e. g. proofs in math, data from investigations in science, details in literature, and documentary sources in history) and follows established norms of good reasoning.
- Teachers and students press for clarification and explanations, require justifications, challenge proposals, recognize and challenge misconceptions, demand evidence for claims and arguments, and interpret and use each other's statements.