Figure 5.12 Four Practices to Foster ML Engagement and Participation in Academic Conversations

MLs come to the discussion prepared. Draw on students' prior knowledge. Provide explicit vocabulary instruction. Build in thinking and writing time. Support students with content understanding by using graphic organizers, text-dependent questions with sentence stems, sentence frames, and/or word banks.
2. MLs use appropriate body language. Explicitly teach expectations related to eye contact and other nonverbal communication. Discuss possible cultural differences in expectations about body language. Model appropriate and inappropriate behavior.
3. MLs participate by taking turns. Include structured pair work. Use a talking stick, talking rock, or discussion chips. Teach and practice language for inviting others to participate.
4. Make connections. • Teach and practice language needed for different discourse skills (e.g., agree, disagree, add on, ask for clarification). • Model how to make connections to someone's idea. • Incorporate hand signals to show agreement with another's idea. • Include both group and individual accountability.

Source: Adapted from Staehr Fenner & Snyder, 2017