

## **Shifts for Implementing Collaboration within the Disciplines**

- Incorporate think-pair-share or some adaptation of this simple practice to get kids accustomed to talking to each other about your content. Don't worry if all students aren't on task at first. The more opportunities they have for quick-talk, a brief "turn and talk" in some form, the more they will learn to respond maturely to your prompt.
- Reduce whole-class instruction to shorter mini-lessons and move the actual "work," including discussions, into small groups. Instead of always explaining concepts, principles, or new information to students, for example, give them opportunities to work together to construct explanations.
- Don't panic if you discover your students have misconceptions while engaged in collaborative learning. The talk they engage in will help you know what misinformation to correct as they articulate their thinking about an essential idea. It is especially important in math and science to understand students' faulty thinking.
- Think of collaboration as the socialization of intelligence and work towards establishing an environment where students feel safe expressing their thoughts, opinions, questions, and confusions—and such risk-taking often occurs first in a small group. Try to relinquish some control as the traditional teacher who imparts information and move into the role of a facilitator who elicits it.
- Create tasks that support collaborative work.

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