

Accountable Language Stems

Agreement

- “I agree with _____ because _____.”
- “I like what _____ said because _____.”
- “I agree with _____; but on the other hand, _____.”

Disagreement

- “I disagree with _____ because _____.”
- “I’m not sure I agree with what _____ said because _____.”
- “I can see that _____; however, I disagree with (or can’t see) _____.”

Clarifications

- “Could you please repeat that for me?”
- Paraphrase what you heard and ask, “Could you explain a bit more, please?”
- “I’m not sure I understood you when you said _____. Could you say more about that?”
- “What’s your evidence?”
- “How does that support our work/mission at _____?”

Confirmation

- “I think _____.”
- “I believe _____.”

Confusion

- “I don’t understand _____.”
- “I am confused about _____.”

Extension

- “I was thinking about what _____ said, and I was wondering what if _____.”
- “This makes me think _____.”
- “I want to know more about _____.”
- “Now I am wondering _____.”
- “Can you tell me more about _____?”

Review

- “I want to go back to what _____ said.”

Features of Accountable Talk

Accountability to the Learning Community

- a. Careful listening to each other
- b. Using and building on each other's ideas
- c. Paraphrasing and seeking clarification
- d. Respectful disagreement
- e. Using sentence stems

Accountability to Accurate Knowledge

- f. Being as specific and accurate as possible
- g. Resisting the urge to say just "anything that comes to mind."
- h. Getting the facts straight
- i. Challenging questions that demand evidence for claims

Accountability to Rigorous Thinking

- j. Building arguments
- k. Linking claims and evidence in logical ways
- l. Working to make statements clear
- m. Checking the quality of claims and arguments