

Activity 2: Preparing for effective group work

Objective

To help students reflect on the purposes and functions of group work and evaluate their own use of talk for learning.

Time

15 minutes.

Resources

Slide 1: ‘Think about the way you talk when you’re working in a group’. See also the Notes Section in Slide 1; Worksheet 1: ‘Evaluating talk’ for students.

Activity

Whole-class activity

Explain the objective of Activity 1. Ask students ‘Who do teachers ask you to work together in groups?’ Ask them if/why they think talk in science/maths classrooms is useful or not. The questions on the slide (and in the slide notes) are useful for stimulating the discussion.

Allow students time to make extended responses to the questions. Do not evaluate their answers yourself, but ask if other students agree/disagree with what anyone says (and ask for explicit reasons why).

Individual work

Hand out Worksheet 1: ‘Evaluating Talk’. Ask each student to fill in their responses. Collect all the students’ sheets. Completing this exercise will be helpful to students, but you also should find their responses informative.

Worksheet 1: Evaluating Talk

Name: _____

Think about the way you talk when you're working in a group.

Give yourself a score out of 5
 4 = Brilliant!! Couldn't be better! Keep it up!
 3 = Really good! Maybe one or two things to work on though. Aim for 5!
 2 = Not bad! But some problems
 1 = Disaster!!! Completely terrible!!!

I can offer these qualities to my group	My marks out of 5
I listen carefully	
I think about what other people say	
I can say clearly what I think	
I always give reasons for for my opinions	
I usually understand other people's point of view	
I respect what other people say	
I have some great ideas	
I can explain what I mean	
I ask questions which help others to talk	
I can co-operate with anyone	
I am happy to share what I know	
I am thoughtful	
I talk confidently	
I can get people to change their minds	
I understand why work in groups is useful	
I am happy if my group does well	
I understand the importance of talk	
I know what makes a good discussion	

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Slide 2

Think about the way you talk when you're working in a group

Worksheet 1: Evaluating Talk

Name:

Think about the way you talk when you're working in a group.

Give yourself a score out of 4

4 = Brilliant!! Couldn't be better! Keep it up!

3 = Really good! Maybe one or two things to work on though. Aim for 4!

2 = Not bad! But some problems

1 = Disaster!!! Completely terrible!!!

I can offer these qualities to my group	My marks out of 4	
I listen carefully		
I think about what other people say		
I can say clearly what I think		
I always give reasons for my opinions		
I usually understand other people's point of view		
I respect what other people say		
I have some great ideas		
I can explain what I mean		
I ask questions which help others to talk		
I can co-operate with anyone		
I am happy to share what I know		
I am thoughtful		
I talk confidently		
I can get people to change their minds		
I understand why work in groups is useful		
I am happy if my group does well		
I understand the importance of talk		
I know what makes a good discussion		