

Talking Legos



Talking Legos is a routine that can help students to be more aware of their air time and ensure that they are not monopolizing the conversation or failing to participate (no hogs, no logs). It also provides a visual cue for the teacher to know who has participated in a discussion and how many times.

Steps for the Strategy

1. Put students in small groups (3 or 4) and give them a higher level question to discuss.
2. Give each group a baggie with Legos of enough different colors to have one color for each member of the group)
3. From the baggie, students choose a color and take all of the Legos in that color from the baggie (2-4 of each color in each baggie, depending on how long you give for the conversation).
4. Each time a student shares, they put one of their Legos in the middle of the table.
5. Once you're out of Legos, you need to just listen to what others have to say.

Consideration- The use of this kind of structured conversation routine should be strategic and as-needed for scaffolding participation. It's important to allow for natural conversations to happen as students become ready to self-monitor.