

Chalk Talk

Source: Coalition of Essential Schools
www.ccsso.org/content/pdfs/FINAL%20CCSSO%20Additional%20Strategies.doc

Chalk Talk instructional strategy promote students' interaction with one another and with text, support reflection about content area reading and writing, and provide teachers with formative assessment information that is useful when planning subsequent literacy-rich learning experiences.

Purpose

Chalk Talk is a silent, thinking strategy to generate ideas, check learning, solve problems, reflect, or capture collective thought processes of students. The strategy allows students to interact visibly and directly with ideas or concepts, while interacting silently with one another. *Chalk Talk* may be used by teachers to:

- Generate ideas
- Develop projects
- Check on comprehension or learning
- Generate ideas for solving problems
- Reflect on an idea, concept, or issue

Procedure

1. The teacher explains that *Chalk Talk* is a silent activity to encourage and integrate everyone's thinking. Students will be asked to come forward and add ideas in writing. Students connect with other students' thinking by drawing lines to comments.
2. The teacher writes a question, word, or topic in a circle on the board.
3. The teacher provides chalk or markers for student use. Class size will determine if everyone has a marker. To manage large groups and limit confusion, the teacher needs to develop a process for students to hand-off the chalk/marker to another student.
4. Students take turns writing thoughts or feelings connected to the topic.
5. The teacher serves as a facilitator and may add to the idea sharing as appropriate to expand student thinking and encourage additional interaction by:
 - Writing questions about a comment
 - Noting emerging themes
 - Adding his/her reflections or ideas
 - Connecting two interesting ideas or thoughts
6. The teacher and the students summarize the results of the *Chalk Talk* and identify significant themes, connections, or additional questions.

Our Prompt

Prompt for Summer Institute is: **Congress – strengths, weaknesses.**

Possible extensions could include using the question posed for the hearing and/or its bullets.

Consider for use in a science class, language arts, etc.