

## **Developing Academic Interaction Skills**

Interaction is fundamental to identity, learning, and even survival (Rutledge, 2011). Academic interactions move beyond typical surface level school activities of reciting facts, making up sentences to show grammar rules, and matching vocabulary meanings. In authentic interaction work, students *use* the facts, grammar, and vocabulary in connected sentences to clarify, fortify, and negotiate complex ideas. Our current and future students can benefit from this major shift in pedagogy, which is a shift from training them to choose answers to training them to pose questions, explore different points of view, and build meanings with others. Fortunately, the [College and Career Readiness] Standards emphasize interaction skills and complex language development. And even if they didn't, we have a duty to provide students at all levels and ages with multiple and well-supported opportunities to interact using original, whole, and academic messages.

[Source: Zwiers, O'Hara, & Pritchard, (2014). *Common Core Standards in diverse classrooms: Essential practices for developing academic language and disciplinary literacy*. Stenhouse. Excerpt retrieved from <http://www.jeffzwiers.org/interaction.html> -- Used with permission]

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