

Talk Task Tactics

Listen, plan, direct, and decide together.

GRADE 8 • TEKS 8.1

8.1 "Developing and sustaining foundational language skills: listening, speaking, discussion, and thinking--oral language. The student develops oral language through listening, speaking, and discussion..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Use a card only after you say its starter and finish the idea.

2 Listen without interrupting, then respond to what someone said.

3 Use eye contact, a clear pace, an audible voice, and natural gestures.

4 Follow the speaker time limit your group sets.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Cut out two complete copies of the eight Move cards. Choose one Topic card, take one Role card each, and deal four Move cards to each player.
2. The Agenda Ace leads the group in stating a goal, an agenda, a speaker time limit, and a deadline for completing the plan.
3. The Direction Driver gives a three-step oral direction for part of the task. A different player repeats the direction and completes that planning action.
4. Discuss the topic. When you genuinely use a Move card starter, place that card in the middle and take notes on the idea.
5. When every dealt card is in the middle, use the notes to vote on the key issue and state the final plan and its start deadline.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I listened actively by summarizing, questioning, or commenting on an idea.

☐ I gave or followed a detailed oral direction.

☐ I supported a position with an example, comparison, or illustration and used clear delivery.

☐ I helped create an agenda with a goal, time limits, a deadline, notes, and a vote.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Crowded Hallways What one change could make passing periods safer and less crowded? Make an agenda, give and follow a three-step oral direction to record your plan, set a deadline for starting the change, and vote.	Lunch Line Fix What one change could make the lunch line faster and fairer? Make an agenda, give and follow a three-step oral direction to record your plan, set a deadline for starting the change, and vote.	Study Space Plan What one change could make a school study space more useful for students? Make an agenda, give and follow a three-step oral direction to record your plan, set a deadline for starting the change, and vote.

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Agenda Ace Lead the group in naming the goal, agenda steps, speaker time limit, and completion deadline.	Direction Driver Give one three-step oral direction for the group task, then listen as a different player repeats and completes it.	Note Scout Write the group's main ideas, action steps, implementation deadline, and final vote.	Voice Coach Watch for clear delivery and ask speakers to use eye contact, an audible voice, a steady pace, and natural gestures.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD SUM IT UP "I heard ____, and the main point is ____."	MOVE CARD SUM IT UP "So far, we have said ____ and ____."	MOVE CARD CLARIFY MEANING "When you say ____, do you mean ____?"	MOVE CARD CLARIFY DETAILS "How would ____ work when ____?"
MOVE CARD GIVE DIRECTIONS "First, ____; next, ____; then, ____."	MOVE CARD PLAN AGENDA "Our agenda is ____, then ____, and we will finish by ____."	MOVE CARD ADD EVIDENCE "I support ____ because ____, for example ____."	MOVE CARD VOTE REASON "I vote for ____ because ____."

Print one card sheet per team. Cards last longer on thick paper.

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of every Move card, giving a group of four all 16 cards and a group of three 12 cards with four set aside. Run a new round with a different Topic card and rotated roles. If participation is uneven, enforce the speaker limit, require each student to play cards only after meaningful talk, and give the next speaking turn to a student with the most cards remaining.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Ava	Our agenda is choose a hallway plan, then list steps and vote, and we will finish by 2:20. Each person gets 30 seconds to speak.
Mateo	First, assign a teacher to each stairwell; next, ask students to walk on the right; then, explain the rule during homeroom. The change should begin next Monday.
Lina	When you say assign a teacher, do you mean a teacher at each stairwell during every passing period?
Ava	I support teachers at the stairwells because they can redirect students quickly. For example, last Friday, students slowed down when a teacher stood near the stairs.
Sam	I heard that adults at the stairwells and walking on the right are the main parts of the plan. I wrote those three steps, and I vote for this plan because it could start next Monday.

LISTEN FOR

- Accurate summaries that name a peer's actual point before adding a new idea
- Clarifying questions connected to a specific word, step, or concern
- Sequenced oral directions that another student repeats and carries out correctly
- A supported position and clear delivery, plus an agenda with goals, time limits, deadline, notes, and a vote

There are no right answers to the topic cards. Score the moves students make, not their opinions.