

Talk It Through

Question, respond, and keep the conversation on track.

GRADE 8 • 8.C.1.A.iii

8.C.1.A.iii "Facilitate and contribute to a range of sustained collaborative discussions with diverse partners on grade eight topics and texts. This includes: Asking clarifying questions and responding appropriately to others' questions to encourage..."

NAME _____

DATE _____

OUR GROUND RULES Read together first

1 Speak one at a time.

2 Listen before you use a Move Card.

3 Ask about ideas, not people.

4 Keep the Topic Card visible.

HOW TO PLAY Teams of 3 or 4

1. Choose one Topic Card and read the question together.
2. Each player takes one Role Card. In a group of three, set aside one role.
3. Give each player four Move Cards from two printed Move Card sets.
4. Discuss the topic. When you genuinely use a card's starter, place that card in the middle.
5. Keep talking until every player has played all four cards, then complete the reflection.

AFTER THE ROUND Check what you did

☐ I asked a question that helped someone explain an idea.

☐ I answered a group member's question clearly.

☐ I responded to another person's idea.

☐ I helped connect the discussion to the topic question.

**TOPIC CARDS** · pick one per round

TOPIC	TOPIC	TOPIC
Phone-Free Class What rules, if any, should a class have about using phones during school time?	Project Grades How should a teacher grade students when one group project has different levels of effort?	Less Lunch Waste What is one realistic change our school could make to throw away less food at lunch?

ROLE CARDS · one per player

ROLE	ROLE	ROLE	ROLE
Question Scout Notice unclear words or ideas, and invite the group to ask for clarification.	Answer Bridge Notice unanswered questions, and help the group give clear answers.	Topic Anchor Compare comments to the topic question, and point out when a connection is missing.	Voice Counter Notice who has spoken, and invite a quieter group member to share an idea.

MOVE CARDS · deal 4 to each player

MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
CLARIFY MEANING “Can you explain what you mean by ____?”	CHECK MEANING “When you say ____, are you talking about ____?”	ASK WHY “What makes you think ____?”	ASK EXAMPLE “Could you give an example of ____?”
MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD	MOVE CARD
BUILD ON “I hear your point that ____, and I want to add ____.”	ANSWER CLEARLY “My answer to your question is ____ because ____.”	RECONNECT TOPIC “How does ____ connect to our main question?”	SETTLE FOCUS “Before we switch topics, can we decide ____?”

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

RUNNING THE ROUNDS

Print two copies of the Move Card set for each group so every player can receive four cards. Listen for students to use starters naturally, not simply read them without responding to the discussion. If participation is uneven, have the Voice Counter invite a quieter speaker before a frequent speaker plays another card.

WHAT A STRONG ROUND SOUNDS LIKE

Maya	Can you explain what you mean by equal effort?
Noah	My answer to your question is that equal effort means each person completes a fair share because the group depends on every member.
Ava	What makes you think the amount of work matters more than its quality?
Noah	I hear your point that quality matters, and I want to add that effort can be tracked too.
Liam	How does tracking effort connect to our main question about grades?

LISTEN FOR

- Clarifying questions that name a confusing word, claim, or detail
- Direct, respectful answers to another student's question
- Responses that build on or respectfully challenge an earlier idea
- Questions that reconnect comments to the topic question

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