

Encouraging Conversations

1. Review the resources below and discuss the questions.

Resource 1: Review the instructional protocol for “[turn and talk](#).” Then, [read this article](#) on ways to improve the basic “turn and talk” procedure for conversations. What are some ways you can extend the basic “turn and talk” procedure to support good conversations?

Resource 2: Video – [Four Corners](#) (1:04)

Note that younger kids can use this structure but may do everything orally instead of writing down their thoughts first. You can modify by placing pictures in the corners, having sentence starters/stems visible as a support, etc. What topics could the students talk about using these structures in the grades you teach?

2. Brainstorm topics below students could discuss with the Four Corners strategy in your classroom. Two are listed to get you started!

Four Corners Topics

Label (and/or place a picture in) each corner with a famous American or a community helper. Students pick the one they feel was the most important and discuss why with their group.

Label (and/or place a picture in) each corner with a season. Students pick their favorite season and discuss reasons why they like it with their group.