



Course Overview

Welcome! This course is part one of a three-part course intending to help teachers to set up a classroom in which students are developing content, academic language, and key interpersonal communication skills at the same time.

Each of the courses includes a key concept and objectives page, instructional and classroom videos, suggested readings and resources, and an assignment. This first course, “Creating a Culture of Conversation,” helps you set up a foundation for an entire year of rich conversation. The key is to remember that students need to see the value of conversation; for many of them it will be a radical new way of learning.

The assignment in this short course is meant to be thought-provoking, yet not time-consuming. It is meant to help you extend and reflect on the ideas presented in the readings, screencasts, and classroom videos. The assignment in this course will ask you to brainstorm ways to build conversational mindsets in students.

Goals & Purpose: This course intends to help teachers to set up a classroom in which students are developing content, academic language, and key interpersonal communication skills at the same time.

Session 1 – Introduction

This session serves as an introduction to the course.

Session 2 – Establishing a Classroom Culture of Conversation

This session addresses the role of classroom conversation in the learning and assessing of key ideas and skills across disciplines as well as how to establish a conversant classroom conversation.

Session 3 – Course Wrap-Up and Certificate

This session is a conclusion to the course.

Throughout the course, opportunities are provided for you to connect your learning across sessions and to explicitly consider the implications of your learning for your classroom practice. You will also be able to revisit your work and reflections by viewing your individual Course Portfolios.