Course Overview

This course is Part Two 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. The 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.

This second course, "Creating Effective Conversation Prompts & Tasks," covers ways to create effective prompts for conversations, as well as suggestions for setting up tasks that prepare students to have constructive conversations across the disciplines. The assignments in this short course are meant to be thought-provoking, yet not time-consuming. They are meant to help you extend and reflect on the ideas presented in the readings, screencasts, and classroom videos. Assignment 2 in course 2 asks you to design powerful prompts and tasks for the first few weeks of school.

Goals & Purpose: This course intends to help teachers learn how to craft effective prompts and tasks for back and forth conversations between students.

Session 1 – Introduction

This session serves as an introduction to the course.

Session 2 – Creating Effective Conversation Prompts & Tasks

This session shows teachers how to address the features of effective prompts, examine sample conversations and the connection between the prompt and resulting conversation, and leverage existing learning to build useful tasks and effective prompts.

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.