



Course Overview

This course is Part Three 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.

The 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.

This third course, “Creating Efficient Formative Assessment of Conversations,” will help you to prepare to effectively assess conversations while they are happening. This is a challenge, of course, when you have 10 to 15 conversations happening all at once during the lesson. Yet we will share some very practical ideas for formative assessment across disciplines and grade levels. 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. The assignment in this course asks you to practice formatively assessing conversations using a conversation analysis tool.

Goals & Purpose: This course intends to help teachers prepare to effectively assess conversations while they are happening.

Session 1 – Introduction

This session serves as an introduction to the course.

Session 2 – Preparing for Effective & Efficient Formative Assessment of Conversations

This session shows teachers how to examine the process of formative assessment and the possibilities for formatively assessing conversations, analyze student conversations using the Conversation Analysis Tool, and revisit conversation skills as feedback resources for formative assessment.

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.