
Talking to the Text Inquiry

Team Tool 5.6 from *Leading for Literacy*

Purpose

Individual team members put their metacognitive responses to a complex text on the text itself, annotating it with their confusions, questions, connections, and other thinking about how they are reading and thinking about what the author has, in effect, put in front of them. The Talking to the Text inquiry raises awareness across the team of the wide range of ways to read and make sense of complex text.

Procedure

- In this inquiry, individuals will Think Aloud in writing — or Talk to the Text. Ask everyone to record on their copy of the text their metacognitive conversation with the text, in terms of questions, agreements, confusions, connections, etc.
- Set a reading time limit, with the understanding that people should read at whatever pace is comfortable for them, because grappling with rather than completing the text is the goal.
- Ask team members to really press themselves to externalize their thoughts and reactions to the text, making notes that capture their thinking.
- At the time limit, ask partners to share their annotations and what they noticed about their own or their partner's reading processes.
- Bring team members together to reflect on what they learned and the implications for their instruction.

