

Conversation Strategies: Mini-Lesson Suggestions

As you observe your students interacting during discussion, you may feel you have to offer brief mini-lessons to help them become more productive conversationalists. Sometimes such a lesson will be no more complex than your response to a teachable moment, praising, for example, behavior of the type you hope to encourage.

Some areas that you may need to focus on more explicitly include:

- Showing Respect for Others' Ideas
- Using a Polite Voice
- How To Disagree Politely
- Body Language That Says, "I'm listening to what you say..."
- In an Effective Group Discussion, Everybody...

You may wish to chart and post student responses, using them as visual reminders when needed.