Talk Activities Flowchart
Which talk activities can I use with my students?

What is the purpose of the talk activity?

To get students to critique and get feedback on science models

To get students to revise their thinking

To reach consensus

To get students to explain their thinking

Where are students in their completion process?

They are working on models

They have completed models

How will students think about this phenomenon best?

Are you going to moderate discussion?

Where are you in the unit?

Beginning

Middle

End

Agree-Disagree Line

Teacher poses a question for students to agree or disagree with and they move their bodies to respond.

Three Stay-One Stray

One person "strays" from each group and acts as a critic of another group's models while the three remaining write their criticism.

All-Day Post-Its

Student models are left out all day for students in other class periods to critique with post-its — and maybe other teachers, too.

Through Written Language

Through Images

No; this is a chance for them to "work out" their ideas

Yes; I am curious what they're thinking

Share-Trade

Students observe a phenomenon, write, share with a partner, then trade and share again.

Claim-Pass

Students write a claim at the top of a piece of paper and pass the pencil. Each adds a piece of evidence or experience and passes pencil to the next person.

Idea Coaching

In a pair, one student "coaches" while the other explains. Then switch.

Write and Pass

Students write their ideas and pass them around to their tablemates, who add comments to their ideas. Then students write a revised statement.

Four Quadrants

Print four statements on a paper and students at each table "vote" by placing an object on the statement they agree with and explain why.

Discussion Diamond

Students write their ideas in each corner of the same paper, share merits of their ideas, and their consensus in the middle.

All-Class Science Talk

Teacher poses a question for students to answer with data and reasoning, encouraging students to talk to each other

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