

Intersection of Traditional Coach and the Instructional Technology Coach

Instructional Strategy: Classroom Discussion

Explanation of Strategy:
 Classroom discussion involves students talking to one another around a text, important topic or issue. Classroom discussions allow students to improve communication skills by voicing their opinions and thoughts. Teachers also benefit as it allows them to see if students have learned the concepts that are being taught.

Purpose of Strategy:
 When you have a classroom discussion, you as a teacher have the opportunity to interact and connect to different students at different times. Classroom discussions allow teachers to build relationships with students and for students to express their learning and beliefs in a safe environment.

Explanation of How to Teach the Strategy:
 Before having any type of class discussion, it's important to establish and have visible steps that will help support academic talk in class.

1. Introduce discussion norms
2. Create a safe environment for students
3. Explicitly state the purpose of the stems
4. Use small steps and scaffolding

Explanation of How Strategy is Used by Students:
 Students talk and think aloud to explore their ideas. Classroom discussions can take a myriad of forms, but what is most important is for students to have a safe place to talk about ideas and support for using academic/accountable talk.

- Accessibility Supports:**
- Visual aids
 - Note-taking supports
 - Closed Captioning or live transcriptions
 - Multiple modes of communication
 - Clear expectations & guidelines

- Technology Integration:**
- Online discussion boards (Padlet)
 - Video Conferencing / Video Tools (Flip)
 - Polling tools (Mentimeter & Poll Everywhere)
 - Collaborative Writing tools (Google Docs, OneNote)

[Link to Checklist](#)

[Link to Activity/Template Hub](#)

Coaches & ITCs with the support of school leadership determine what instructional strategies are most important to support learning outcomes. They determine common language for the explanation and purpose.

Instructional and content coaches support teachers in teaching the strategy and how it is used by students. In secondary, where a traditional coach may not be present, the ITC may take this role.

Special education lead in collaboration with the ITC may support teachers with accessibility supports

ITC supports educators with ideas and tools for technology integration that advances teaching and learning.

Coaches share activities and templates on hub