

An Introduction to Talking Points

Developing quality student talk at Redmoor Academy

Why focus on oracy?

- Oracy supports learning.
- Oracy is vital for social mobility.
- Oracy is good for social and emotional learning.
- Oracy opens doors to cultural opportunities.
- Oracy is empowering.





Oracy supports learning

Talk in the classroom, if planned, focused and of quality, is as valid as any reading or writing activity and will enhance both of these skills, leading to improved understanding and written application.



Oracy is vital for social mobility

Equipping students with oracy skills removes one of the main barriers to employment potential, giving them an equal chance to flourish in the workplace.

Oracy is good for social and emotional learning

Teaching the etiquette of well-mannered speaking and listening, even when the debate is robust, helps those who find free-flowing discussion intimidating. It also helps those who are in danger of dominating and making themselves unpopular. Clear expectations and guidelines help everyone find their voice.






Oracy opens doors to cultural opportunities

The confidence given and the courtesy learned make participation in a rich variety of cultural opportunities less daunting and more achievable - great for community cohesion and tolerance.



Oracy is empowering

Speaking out about what matters is crucial to social and political change. Democracy is for all, not just those with the loudest voice.

A middle-aged man with grey hair and glasses, wearing a pink and white striped button-down shirt, is speaking at a podium. He is gesturing with his right hand, pointing upwards. In his left hand, he holds a small black device. To his right, on the podium, is a tall blue water bottle and two small glass jars. A speech bubble is overlaid on the right side of the image, containing text about research on student reasoning.

Our research shows that when students learn how to use talk to reason together, they become better at reasoning on their own.

Neil Mercer, Oracy Cambridge: The Power of Talk



4. Use talking points

... to incite interest, to benchmark understanding or prepare for reading or writing at any point in a lesson

Talking Points are **statements**, not questions, which may be

- Accurate
- Contentious
- Downright wrong
- Thought-provoking
- Interesting
- Irritating
- Amusing
- Smart or simple
- Brief or wordy

E.g. A dictatorship is the only way to get things done quickly.

Regardless of type, a good talking point will offer a way to think more deeply about a subject and a hook for discussion.



at Redmoor Academy

Add, Build, Challenge

To add an new idea to what someone else has been saying:

- I would like to add to this...
- I would have to agree with you because...
- Another example of this could be...
- Adding on to this, in my opinion...
- We might also consider...
- As well as this, it is important to think about...
- In addition...

To build on what someone else has been saying:

- This could be developed by considering...
- This links to...because...
- Furthermore, it could be argued that...
- To elaborate further...
- Building onto this...
- Leading from this...
- Taking this one step forward...
- On top of this...

To challenge someone's ideas and offer the opposite viewpoint:

- I would challenge this idea because...
- On one hand I agree with... However I think...
- On the other hand this idea could be challenged because...
- From another perspective you might argue that...
- Although I can see why ___ thinks... I disagree because...
- Whereas ___ seems to think... instead I think...