

Supporting Students on the Road to Effective Communication

EFFECTIVE COMMUNICATORS



At Norwalk Public Schools, students engage in effective communication by:

- Actively engaging with others.
- Tailoring communication to different audiences.
- Clearly and persuasively sharing their ideas.

DRIVING COMMUNICATION FORWARD

Questions are a powerful lever for communication. The right questions shift student talk from surface-level exchanges to purposeful dialogue that supports the Portrait of a Graduate skill development. By inviting students to share, listen, and build on each other's ideas, we help them grow as effective communicators. The following prompts can be used across grade levels and content areas to support this growth.



ACTIVELY ENGAGES WITH OTHERS

Prompting Questions:

- What's one thing you could ask to learn more about their idea?
- What's something they said that you could build on?
- How do you think they might be feeling right now? Why?
- How can you show them you understand their point of view?
- What questions could you ask to make sure you understand them correctly?
- How might their perspective be different from yours?

Student Sentence Stems:

- I heard you say _____. Can you tell me more?
- I agree with _____ because...
- I disagree with _____ because...
- I have a different idea. What if we...?
- Can you explain what you mean by...?
- I'd like to add on to
- I think what you're saying is _____. Is that right?

TAILORS COMMUNICATION TO DIFFERENT AUDIENCES

Prompting Questions

- How would you explain this to a younger student?
- What words or examples would help them better understand your idea?
- What is another way you could explain this idea to your audience?
- How might your tone or body language help your audience better understand your idea?
- What communication mode (verbal, nonverbal, written, digital) could help make your point more clear?

Student Sentence Stems

- If I were telling this to a younger student, I would say...
- Since I'm talking to ____, I'll make sure to...
- Another way to explain this is...
- I might use these words instead because...
- To make this clearer for my audience, I could...



CLEARLY AND PERSUASIVELY ARTICULATES IDEAS

Prompting Questions

- What's the main point you want them to remember?
- What's an example or fact you could add to make your point stronger?
- How do you think they feel about this?
- If they disagree, what's something respectful you could say while still voicing your opinion?

Student Sentence Stems

- The most important thing is...
- One reason I believe this is...
- For example...
- If someone disagrees, I would say...
- To make my point stronger, I could...



Want to learn more?

Please scan the QR code for more information about the Norwalk Public Schools' Portrait of a Graduate.

