

30) Quality Talk

K-12 Education

The Pennsylvania State University

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Funded by both the NSF and IES, Quality Talk is a teacher-facilitated, small-group discussion approach that aims to promote students' critical-analytic thinking and reasoning by encouraging them to use talk as a tool for thinking about, around, and with text and content. Quality Talk has been shown to be an adaptable pedagogical approach for the delivery of a wide array of materials from elementary Language Arts or mathematics text and content to middle school science experiments to disciplinary core ideas in high school physics and chemistry. Essentially, Quality Talk has shown to be efficacious in promoting teachers' and students' ability to think deeply and meaningfully about complex phenomena. Moreover, these results have been reproduced with students representing an array of socio-economic and cultural backgrounds, including English language learning classrooms in China, Taiwan, and South Africa. As part of any project, our Quality Talk team hosts initial and ongoing professional development workshops for teachers as well as provided materials for instruction. We also provide extensive research opportunities for students at the Pennsylvania State University. We welcome the opportunity to collaborate with anyone interested in fostering students' critical-analytic thinking and reasoning about text and content in diverse settings.