

ACCOUNTABLE TALK STEMS

(S)State an opinion

- I think/believe that ...
- In my opinion ...
- From my perspective ...
- Based on ..., it seems that
- After reading ..., I conclude that

(A)Agree, Disagree, Add on






- I agree with you because ...
- That answer makes sense because ...
- I disagree with you because ...
- I have a different point of view ...
- I would like to add on ...
- This reminds me of ...
- To piggyback on what said

(Q)Ask Question

- What do you mean by ...?
- Why do you think that?
- Will you explain that again?
- I have a question about ...
- I don't quite understand. Can you explain it little bit more?

(P) Paraphrase or Restate your opinion

- So what you are saying is that ...
- In other words, you think ...
- I noticed that ...
- If I understand you correctly, your opinion is that ...

GROUP DISCUSSION RUBRIC	Not Yet 	Sometimes 	Usually 	Mostly 	Always 
Everyone has participated in a meaningful and substantive way and, more or less, equally.					
Everyone listened carefully and respectfully to one another.					
Everyone tried to support their answers with evidence.					
Everyone used Accountable Talk Stems.					
There was a team effort . Students took risks and dug for deep meaning.					

EXPECTATIONS FOR:

A) GROUP LEADERS

- Repeat the task and stress the idea that, “ We are expected to find an answer together”
- Remind them to stay on topic and use **ACCOUNTABLE TALK STEMS**
- Give your members time to think and talk.
- Ask your group members to listen and respond to each other and propel the conversation.
- During discussion, be almost invisible. Make your observations, but let the members lead the conversation.
- Invite non-participants to join the conversation.
- Summarize and have the members do a self-evaluation of the discussion at the end.

Note: It’s ok if you have moments when everybody keeps quiet. Be patient!

B) GROUP MEMBERS

- We are a Team. The Team is expected to focus their minds to find a answer. Don’t compete - collaborate!
- All ideas are serious. Listen carefully and respectfully.
- Ever member is expected to participate.
- Use **ACCOUNTABLE TALK STEMS** to state a new idea, agree, disagree, add on to someone’s idea, ask questions to clarify, paraphrase or restate your opinion.
- Try to support your answer with evidence.

EXAMPLE - 1

SODA BAN!



New York City's Board of Health voted Thursday to ban the sale of sugary drinks in containers larger than 16 ounces in restaurants and other venues, in a move meant to combat obesity and encourage residents to live healthier lifestyles. The board voted eight in favor, with one abstention.

"It's time to face the facts: obesity is one of America's deadliest problems, and sugary beverages are a leading cause of it," said New York Mayor Michael Bloomberg in a statement earlier this month. "As the size of sugary drinks has grown, so have our waistlines -- and so have diabetes and heart disease."

(Lerner,2012) -CNN

Under Bloomberg's ban, "sugary beverages" larger than 16 ounces could not be sold at food-service establishments in New York City. At restaurants with self-service soda fountains, cups larger than 16 ounces could not be provided. Only outlets that get health-department grades were included, so supermarkets, vending machine operators and convenience stores (including 7-Eleven and its Big Gulps) didn't have to worry about the ban. There was no ban on refills. Failure to comply could have led to a \$200 fine.

The beverage industry took the city's New York City Department of Health and Mental Hygiene to court, arguing that the ban should have gone through the elected city council. State Supreme Court Justice Milton A. Tingling Jr. called the ban "arbitrary and capricious." The many exceptions, he said, are made on "suspect grounds" and lead to uneven enforcement. The loopholes, such as the refill issue, "defeat and/or serve to gut the purpose of the rule." He also expressed concern about the health department having a "virtually limitless authority," saying that Bloomberg's conception of its mandate would "create an administrative Leviathan." (Weiner, 2013) - Washington Post

Are we for **PROBAN** or **AGAINST THE BAN**? Why?

- Each group member will use the accountable talk stems to engage in a conversation about the pros and cons of banning large soft drinks.

Reminder: Group Leaders

1. Summarize your team's strongest claim at the end and vote for **PROBAN** or **AGAINST THE BAN**.
2. Remind the expectations for Group Members
3. Have the members do a self-evaluation of the discussion at the end.

EXAMPLE - 2

A COURT CASE...

I plan to sue a TV station because the weatherman wrongly predicted a nice day. I ended up getting caught in the rain, causing me to catch the flu, miss a week of work, have to purchase medication, and endure elevated stress levels. I plan to sue the station for \$1,000. I need your help to find evidence to develop my case and convince the judge to find in my favor. I need that
\$1000!

Reminder: Group Leaders

1. Ask group members to stand and make a circle so everyone can see each other
2. Repeat the task and stress the idea that, “ We are expected to find an unimpeachable claim as a team, to win the plaintiff \$1,000.”
3. Remind the expectations for Group Members
4. Summarize your team’s strongest claim. Have the members do a self-evaluation of the discussion.