

# THINKING ROUTINES & DISCURSIVE STRATEGIES

## DISCUSSION PASSPORT

When you're travelling, you need a valid passport to gain admission to others lands. Another person's ideas are a bit like another land, and it's important to travel there respectfully.

Here is a simple strategy to ensure that students are listening closely and actively respecting peers' perspectives.



### THE 4 STAMP DISCUSSION PASSPORT—LISTEN, PARAPHRASE, QUESTION, BUILD

**LISTEN** closely, making eye contact and putting mental, physical, and social distractions aside.

**PARAPHRASE** your peer to make sure that your understanding is clear and accurate, free of additions, distortions, or omissions.

You could start with something like . . .

“If I've heard you correctly, you think / claim / feel that ... “

#### Thumbs Up or Down

If the peer is satisfied with the paraphrase, they put their thumb up.

If the peer is not yet satisfied with the paraphrase, they put their thumb down.



#### Lifeline, Anyone?

The speaker can then try to improve the paraphrase on their own, or call upon classmates for a lifeline— a peer can suggest a significant change that would make the paraphrase clear and accurate.



#### QUESTION

Before you respond to the idea, pose a question to learn a little more about your peer's thinking.

#### BUILD

You may then enter the territory of your peer's idea, choosing the thinking move that best suits you:

- **Build** upon their idea using new insights and evidence
- **Challenge** their idea by posing a question or providing counter-evidence
- **Introduce** a new idea or point of view to broaden or deepen the discussion.