



INQUIRY FIELD GUIDE

*20+ PRACTICAL STRATEGIES AND
PROTOCOLS TO PROMPT QUESTIONS
AND FACILITATE INVESTIGATIONS*

Turn and Talk / Shoulder Partners

The What

Use a Turn and Talk or Shoulder Partners to prompt a quick conversation between students who are already seated close together. Because there is no special seating arrangement or protocol required, it is perhaps the most flexible and informal discussion strategy.

The How

1. During any type of whole-class activity, mini-lesson, or discussion, ask students to turn to a neighboring partner or 2 to briefly discuss their responses to a question.
 - The question may be opinion-based, a challenge to review a previously covered piece of content information, or an open-ended prompt that sparks student thinking for an upcoming activity.
2. Give students anywhere between 30 seconds and 2 minutes to discuss with their neighbor.
 - It may be helpful to remind students to take turns so that everyone in the discussion has a chance to speak.
 - Depending on the purpose of the conversation, students may be encouraged to jot a quick note to remember the takeaways of their conversation, if needed.
 - Listen in to students' conversations to check for understanding or inform next steps in the lesson.