

Engaging Students in Text-Based Discussions: Transcript

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[The text on the screen says, "WIDA Professional Learning. Engaging Students in Text-Based Discussions."]

April to interviewer: I think the important . . .

Carmen to April: [Unintelligible]

April to interviewer: . . . part is the discussion, though.

Carmen to April: Mm-hmm.

April to interviewer: Because they're really good about, um, verbalizing what they think and what they've learned.

Carmen to April: Mm-hmm.

April to interviewer: And they are able to, I feel, like, more than I've ever had, like, everyone is being able to access what we're doing, um, and have access to it. And if they, and sometimes even if it's repeating what somebody else said, it's, they've heard it once, they've heard it twice, they, then they, they're like, "Oh, that must be, like, what I can, how I can answer something." Like, I just feel, like, our discussions have been really . . .

Carmen to April: Yeah.

April to interviewer: . . . great this year.

Carmen to interviewer: Yeah. I think they've been great, and we've kept, like, the language in the discussion, like, at the same level of rigor.

Carmen to class: Our question is, “Why did Galileo think it was important to learn about space?” So go ahead, face your partner, and we have, let’s do like three minutes for you and your partner to talk . . .

Student A to Student B: I think it’s important he learned about space because if he didn’t learn about space, we would think the earth is, like, flat and the, and we, um, like, they’re not – What I wanna say? Oh, we are not, if he didn’t know, we wouldn’t know right now that the, um, we go around the sun and, uh, the, everything else doesn’t go around the earth.

Student B to Student A: One reason Galileo wanted to know more about space, um, is because he want, um, everyone to know the truth about space and be the first person to learn the truth about, um, space and the moon and everything. And, um, another reason is people believed, um, in something, but they believed in, um, things that were false. And also . . .

Carmen to interviewer: The student that was, like, “That’s Galileo, and he built a telescope, and he was on house arrest, looking out through,” like, all of those amazing things that they’ve gathered from our conversations and the books that we’re looking at.