

Silent Conversation

By Dani Siegel

Purpose

To make an independent activity engaging and collaborative. Asking students to participate in a silent conversation also encourages students to pay attention while reading and/or working independently.

Time

varies

Materials

Paper, pencil

Procedure

1. Ask students to work on a task or read a text independently for a certain amount of time.
2. As students are working independently, they should write the main ideas and questions they have on a piece of paper. Use guiding prompts such as:
 - a. What are the main ideas to remember from the reading? Why?
 - b. What was the hardest part for you to understand? What did you do to help yourself?
3. All students will pause at “halftime” to silently read and respond to what others have written.
4. Ask students to add more to their sheet as they finish the task.

How to use with ThinkCERCA

This can be used during Step 2 of ThinkCERCA’s Writing Lesson when students are reading the text independently. This can also be used when students are working on Skills lessons.