

Supporting English Learners' Oral Language Development Through Academic Conversations

Educators from more than 25 states and several countries joined us our webinar in February 2019. This infographic shares insights into nationwide challenges of EL oral language development and strategies to increase EL support in academic conversations.



SupportEd



We asked educators...

What is the **most significant challenge** you have **engaging ELs** in academic conversations?

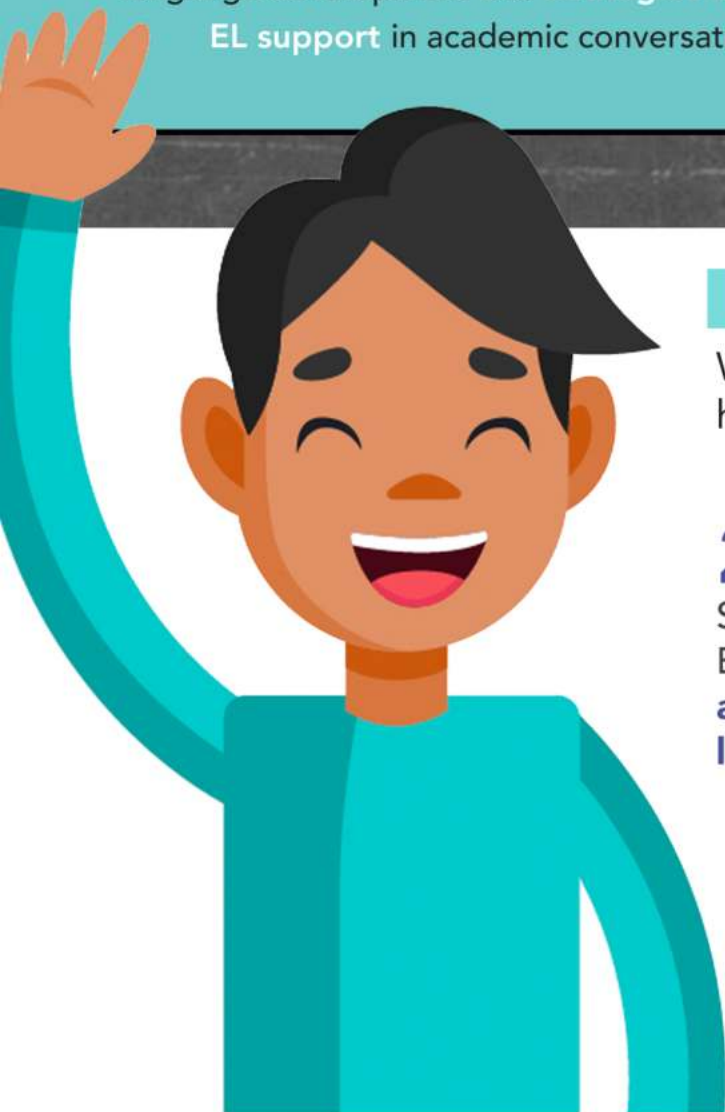
21%
Supporting ELs in using **academic language**

24%
Encouraging **participation**



6%
Building a **supportive climate**

49%
Designing effective **oral language activities**



SupportEd's Tips

in Response to Educators' Questions

Encourage ELs' Participation



- **Pair** students intentionally. Group ELs with shared home languages together so students can **discuss in the home language before** transitioning to English.
- **Assign** specific group roles to ensure that every group role is **academic in nature** (e.g., avoid timekeeper).
- **Incorporate** additional practice for **listening to and sharing** ideas.

Create Activities for SLIFE



- **Practice** conversation with **familiar topics** first.
- **Introduce** scaffolded gap activities to **necessitate sharing** with one another.
- **Use** sentence stems and graphic organizers to provide **scaffolded support** for discussion.
- **Leverage** visuals that can represent key concepts and **facilitate discussion**.

Counter Colleagues' Concerns



- **Emphasize** that academic discussions don't have to **take a long time**.
- **Invite** colleagues into your classroom and demonstrate what **strong academic discussions** with ELs look like.
- **Share** video clips that model effective **academic conversations that include ELs**.



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