

Accountable Talk: Presenter's Guide

Overview

The [Colorín Colorado ELL Strategy Library](#) includes more than **35 research-based classroom strategies** that can be incorporated and adapted for K-12 instruction. While the strategies were written with multilingual learners and English language learners (ELLs) in mind, they can be used to support academic language and content instruction for all students.

Colorín Colorado has prepared several free slide decks focused on specific strategies that can be used for turnkey professional development sessions. This presenter's guide accompanies the [Accountable Talk slide deck](#) and offers tips for planning a related professional development session.

About This Guide

This guide includes:

- Planning Your Session: Tips for Presenters
- Accountable Talk: Activities
- PD Session Planning Tool
- Handouts (available to print or use as fillable PDF forms)



Additional PD ideas are available in our [ELL Professional Learning](#) collection, which includes more strategy slide decks and an introductory session about the ELL Strategy Library.

Acknowledgements

The strategies featured in the ELL Strategy Library were developed by ELL experts Beth Skelton and Tan Huynh, and some of the strategies are featured in their book, [Long-Term Success for Experienced Multilinguals](#). Additional strategies, visuals, and resources were developed by Lydia Breiseth, Director of Colorín Colorado.

Planning Your Session: Tips for Presenters



Here are some tips to help you plan a PD session about accountable talk. All of our materials are free and available to share in educational settings. You are welcome to download and edit these materials as needed. Please share attribution to Colorín Colorado.

What You Need

- [Accountable Talk Slide Deck](#)
- PD Planning Tool (optional)
- Handouts from this guide (optional)
- Internet access

Before your session, we recommend that you look through the slide deck and speaker's notes to get familiar with the format, content, activities, and discussion questions. You can also use the PD Session Planning Tool, which is included in this guide.

Note: This session can be presented in person or online. If presenting in person, you may wish to invite participants to bring a device ahead of time and confirm online access for your session.

Timing

This slide deck will take around 45 minutes to complete, and bonus activities are included that can be used to extend the session. For shorter sessions, you can shorten the activities. You can also consider:

- Holding a follow-up session for teachers to plan a lesson or PD activity using this strategy
- Planning an in-depth session or event where you can lead participants through a deep dive of the ELL Strategy Library
- Introducing this strategy in team, department, or PLC meetings
- Planning training sessions with different audiences, such as science teachers, ELL coaches, etc.

Discussion and Reflection

We have found that educators really enjoy the discussions they have in these sessions. Leave as much time for discussion as possible and invite partners or small groups to share their takeaways with the bigger group to extend everyone's learning.

Accountable Talk: Activities



The Accountable Talk slide deck includes the following topics and activities. Many activities include discussion questions, and activities with handouts are noted below. The slide deck also includes a brief introduction to the ELL Strategy Library at the beginning.

Accountable Talk: How to Teach It

Participants learn about accountable talk and walk through the lesson planning process for using accountable talk. This overview includes:

- A classroom video (2.5 min)
- Tips for lesson planning and instruction
- Information about sentence frames, cognates, and gradual release (I do, we do, you do)

Activity: Compare and Contrast

Using sentence stems and discussion prompts, participants compare several pairs of photographs. Each subsequent prompt adds a new element, such as vocabulary, background knowledge, and the use of feedback.

Bonus Activities

Scaffolds and ELLs

Participants reflect on how to talk about the use of scaffolds with colleagues. A video (2.5 mins) featuring National Teacher of the Year Missy Testerman is also included.

Planning a PD Session

Participants brainstorm ideas for a possible PD session using accountable talk.

Handout: PD Session Planning Tool

Discussion Questions

There are several additional discussion questions included in the Bonus Activities section.

Handout: Discussion and Reflection Questions

PD Session Planning Tool



Use this tool to help you plan your PD session with the ELL Strategy Library! This tool can also be used in PD planning activities during trainings and sessions.

Audience	
Roles of attendees	<input type="checkbox"/> Teachers <input type="checkbox"/> Coaches <input type="checkbox"/> Administrators <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Levels of ELL experience	<input type="checkbox"/> High <input type="checkbox"/> Medium <input type="checkbox"/> Limited <input type="checkbox"/> It's a mix
Number of participants	

Setting & Logistics	
Type of event	<input type="checkbox"/> PD training <input type="checkbox"/> Faculty meeting <input type="checkbox"/> Conference <input type="checkbox"/> Pre-service <input type="checkbox"/> Other _____
Is this a recurring event?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes <input type="checkbox"/> No <input type="checkbox"/> It could be!
Timing	<input type="checkbox"/> 30-45 min <input type="checkbox"/> 45-60 min <input type="checkbox"/> 60-90 min
Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> In-person <input type="checkbox"/> Virtual <input type="checkbox"/> Hybrid
Technology for In-Person/Hybrid Sessions	<input type="checkbox"/> We'll have a live Internet connection <input type="checkbox"/> Participants will have a device

Goals for the Session	
What should attendees get out of this session?	

ELL Strategy Library: Discussion and Reflection Questions



Use these questions for discussion or personal reflection.

Highlights:

One takeaway from today was:

I am excited to take back:

I want to keep exploring:

An “a-ha” moment for me was:



Using the ELL Strategy Library in My Setting

I could use the ELL Strategy Library to...

Support a student:

Co-plan with a colleague:

Plan an upcoming lesson: