

DiALoG User Guide: Overview

The DiALoG User Guides are companions to the DiALoG Tool. There are eight User Guides—one for each dimension of oral argumentation. The User Guides are designed to help you prepare to formatively assess and support the eight dimensions of oral argumentation in your classroom and to make the most of your formative assessment results. Therefore, the User Guides can be used in tandem with the DiALoG Tool before, during, and after your formative assessment of oral argumentation. You will find the following information in each User Guide:

- **A description of the DiALoG dimension.** This description includes and elaborates on the statements from the DiALoG Tool that you will use to assess each dimension in action. Reference this information before or after you determine whether the statement is Not Descriptive, Somewhat Descriptive, or Very Descriptive of the discussion you observe. This will help you clarify the goal for each dimension and how you can support students if a response is needed.
- **Possible student statements.** These statements can help you get a sense of what each dimension of argumentation might sound like in your classroom and inform your thinking as you decide how well the scoring statement for a given dimension describes the discussion you are observing or just observed. An abbreviated list of these statements can also be found in the DiALoG Tool itself.
- **Useful teacher prompts.** These prompts are examples of things you might say in your classroom to model the dimension of scientific argumentation or to prompt students to demonstrate their facility with the dimension. You can consult these statements as you prepare to support oral argumentation in your classroom or use them as a just-in-time resource during class discussion.
- **Responsive Mini-Lesson (RML) summaries.** These summaries are included to clarify the goals for each RML. They can also help you determine if a suggested RML is an appropriate fit for your students, based on your assessment in the DiALoG Tool and your expertise regarding the types of experiences that will best support your students.

