

Talk It Out: Conversations That Build Comprehension, Student Engagement & Deeper Thinking



PRESENTED BY

Michelle Bence, PhD & Miriam Ramzy, PhD



SERIES SESSIONS

Date	Time
October 15, 2025	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
October 22, 2025	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM
November 05, 2025	4:00 PM - 5:00 PM



LOCATION

Online

FEE

\$60.00

QUESTIONS?

Contact Us:

calgary@aplc.ca

[403-291-0967](tel:403-291-0967)

REGISTER ONLINE

Visit our website to register:

calgary.aplc.ca

Learning Opportunity

This three-part series invites K–6 teachers, coaches, and leaders to explore the power of dialogic talk to deepen student comprehension, thinking, and learning. Through dialogic talk, students engage in purposeful, collaborative conversations that move beyond surface-level responses, fostering deep understanding and critical thinking. This approach boosts student engagement by inviting learners to actively participate in meaning-making, make personal connections to content, co-construct knowledge, and develop the ability to transfer and apply their learning across contexts.

Anchored in research and practical classroom models, these sessions build from foundational concepts to powerful applications within ELAL and across the disciplines. Participants will leave with practical tools to support dialogic talk, leading to increased student engagement, agency, and easy ways to shift classroom conversations from surface participation to rich, reflective thinking.

Session 1: The What and the Why

What is dialogic talk, and why does it matter for student motivation and success outcomes? Grounded in decades of robust research, this session introduces the core concept of Dialogic Talk, shares examples from practice, and models how classroom context and questioning shape student engagement.

Session 2: The How in a Read-Aloud

Building on foundational ideas from session 1, this session models how dialogic talk can live inside a read-aloud or classroom text. Using a simple framework and classroom protocol, participants will leave with ways to set the context, gather ideas, and dive deep, while honouring and acknowledging students' diverse ideas and perspectives. This session will also share success stories from kindergarten through grade six.

Session 3: The Bigger How

How can we leverage dialogic talk across subjects and empower students to lead it? This final session expands the model

into other disciplines and structures. We will explore four lines of questioning and consider how student modeling, peer-to-peer conversation, and thoughtful assessment can elevate both agency and understanding.

Presenters

Michelle Bence, PhD

Michelle Bence is a dedicated educator with over 20 years of experience in K-12 classrooms and literacy education. She has worked extensively with several school boards across Western Canada as a literacy consultant, leading initiatives in literacy development, professional teacher learning, and the system-wide implementation of evidence-based literacy practices. Michelle recently completed her Ph.D. at the University of Calgary. Her research focuses on dialogic pedagogy and its role in fostering students' complex thinking, literacy identities, and language development in relation to literacy acquisition and engagement with texts.

Miriam Ramzy, PhD

Miriam Ramzy is a teacher and researcher based in Alberta. She has worked as a classroom teacher in both English and French Immersion settings, a literacy coach and facilitator, a school administrator, and Director of Student Learning. Currently, she works with school boards across Western Canada, supporting teachers, leaders, educational assistants, parents, and students from Jr. K - 12. Her work centers on literacy research and practice, with a deep commitment to supporting partners in education to create effective, responsive, and inclusive spaces where all students thrive. Miriam holds a PhD from the University of Calgary. Her research examined writing instruction, with a particular focus on the transcription process. She continues to contribute to professional learning and educational research with a passion for bridging theory and classroom practice.

Registration Notes

All session times are mountain time.

This series will be recorded and available for 30 days.



Supporting every educator
in every classroom