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Conducting educational discussions

Goal

Among the most intensive dialogical conversation forms are the educational talks between the instructor and individual students. It is here that the students also experience how to use their first language in a demanding and reflective context. They learn how to evaluate themselves and to reflect their learning, their progress as well as aspects where they still can improve.

1st–9th grade

5–25 minutes



Hints:

- The framework for educational discussions in HLT comprises mostly two types of situations:
 1. Shorter educational talks that concern primarily a brief feedback about a specific task. This type can occur during class, e. g. parallel to students' quiet work assignments in class.
 2. More comprehensive educational discussions, which involve more of a fundamental status assessment. They require more time and should be conducted before or after class.
- Educational discussions should be conducted with every student at least once per semester. In practice, this often occurs in conjunction with a grade report. Equally valuable are also educational talks concerning a specific assignment (presentation, etc.).
- It is useful when the instructor and the students prepare themselves for the discussion. To this end, the students should receive concrete questions or assignments.
- In exceptional cases, educational talks can be conducted with two students simultaneously.
- Good information, suggestions and examples (in German) are available in the internet under the heading <Schulentwicklung nrw - Lerngespräche führen>.

Procedure (Example):

- The starting point can be the instructor's request for an educational talk with the students concerning a specific task or generally about their progress and development needs. It can also result from the request of a child to discuss a certain task, problem, or progress with his/her teacher.
- Before more fundamental discussions, an appropriate and fitting timeframe should be determined to allow the conversation partners ample time for preparation.
- The educational discussion ends with a summary. Possibilities: a short protocol with agreements is drafted, or concrete goals for the next weeks or 3-4 months are agreed upon and recorded.

Examples of questions to prepare for the educational discussion about a particular task:

- ▶ Please report: in what aspects did I succeed well in this assignment?
- ▶ What was difficult for me?
- ▶ Where do I have to improve?
- ▶ What can and will I do differently next time?