

Communication *Skills*

activities for the K–12 classroom

Communication helps students express themselves, understand others, and work well together. These activities build it in every form, spoken, written, visual, and digital, and prepare students for a connected world beyond the classroom.

Build Confidence and Clarity

Turn-and-Talks

- Have students talk with a partner before whole-group discussion.
- Give specific prompts: "How would you explain this in your own words? What stuck out? What question do you still have?"

Why It Works

- Small groups let students work through parts of the lesson and broaden understanding.
- Students feel more confident responding in a smaller group.
- Prompted questions boost confidence.

Skills Built

- Students clarify their thinking before speaking to the whole group.
- More student talk time, stronger speaking and listening skills.
- Builds interpersonal skills and relationships.

Know Your Audience

Tone

- Different audiences call for different speaking and writing styles.
- Naming the audience helps students choose a tone.
- They learn new ways of interacting and sharing information.

Structure

- Students learn to structure writing in different formats.
- This shapes which credible sources they choose to reference.
- Teachers can design assignments to match content-area requirements.

Public Speaking

- Presenting to different audiences puts speaking and language skills into practice.
- Practice builds confidence across settings.
- Students gain practical, real-world skills.

Become Better Listeners

Active Listening

- Students participate by listening, not only by talking.
- Teacher prompts push them to challenge and respond to specific points.
- Encourages thoughtful reflection and relationship building.

Empathy

- When everyone takes part, students build real understanding of what it means to share information.
- Students practice a setting where respect and understanding are expected.
- Activities open them to different perspectives.

Career Connection

- Students review each other's work and give constructive feedback, essential for teamwork.
- They learn to approach others with respect.
- They learn to make their points clearly.

Expand Creativity

Think Outside the Box

- Communication isn't only writing and speaking, it can be visual too.
- Have students communicate an idea through pictures, storytelling, or video editing.
- These activities build digital literacy and comfort with technology.

Prepare for the Future

- Communicating through diverse media prepares students for 21st-century careers.
- Ongoing communication develops relationship-building and leadership skills.
- Collaboration grows through these activities, a win for the whole class.

The *takeaway*

Woven into a K–12 classroom, these activities build communication in every form: verbal, nonverbal, written, and digital. The goal is students who can say what they mean and truly hear each other. Questions, or want help bringing these into your classroom? Send me an email.