Guided by a prompt, Maximizing Academic Language Exchanges provides students with structured opportunities to engage in academic discussions, build on their ideas, and gain new language and knowledge based on the content. The exchanges encourage conversations and sharing of ideas with diverse partners.

Lines of Communication

The skill of CREATE requires students to:
- articulate their initial thinking
- listen to the initial thinking of others
- use their prior knowledge and make new connections to express original ideas about ideas
- synthesize ideas

The skill of NEGOTIATE requires students to:
- propose an additional idea that opposes or complements the first idea
- strengthen opposing ideas and together negotiate the idea
- combine ideas into new ideas
- agree or disagree or conciliate to the new idea
- understand that all ideas, even if they are contrasting perspectives, are explored and valued

The skill of CLARIFY requires students to:
- know when to prompt a partner to clarify
- know when to clarify one’s own idea, and how to do so with different partners
- understand the skill of clarifying is as much on the listener as it is on the speaker
- represent the ideas in multiple ways, such as analogies and metaphors
- use elaboration, explanation, and paraphrasing

The skill of FORGE requires students to:
- support or fortify ideas with evidence
- identify and evaluate multiple examples of evidence to fortify ideas
- find the sufficient and relevant evidence that supports the idea
- evaluate the effectiveness of an idea and its support

Option 1: Teacher poses a question, then 3rd asks about the prompt. The question is asked, then the teacher’s question is repeated. The question is repeated three times. The new question is repeated three times. The new question is repeated three times. The new question is repeated three times. The new question is repeated three times.

Option 2: Teacher poses a question, students participate in a Constructive Conversation with their partners, or with one or more of their ideas. On the teacher’s signal, students stop. Each person in line A will move down to the next person and the row moves forward. Everyone will have a new partner. The process continues for three additional rounds.

Ask yourself:
- Does the prompt guide students’ sharing and building up their ideas?
- Does the exchange support the lesson outcome?