Inside/Outside Circles or Parallel Lineups (“Conga Line”)
Used to review key concepts and to build academic talk

1. Give each student a slip of paper or card with a question, vocabulary word, or some other topic he or she will need to explain.

2. Give students two minutes to think about their topic and to write notes on the paper/card.

3. Divide students into two equal groups. (Paper and cards can also be color-coded for easy division into two groups.)

4. Place half the group in the inner circle directly facing a member of the second half of the group in an outer circle. (Alternatively, form parallel lines.)

5. Provided a limited amount of time for the partners to quiz each other on the topics from their papers/cards.

6. Coach the students to speak in complete sentences and restate the question in their answer as they speak to their partners.

7. Coach students to ask their partner questions if the partner is not able to readily respond about the topic.

8. Have the outer circle move to the left (or right) two or three partners down. With parallel lineup, have one or two persons at the end of the line walk quickly to the other end of the line, and all others move one or two spaces to face a new partner. To form a “Conga Line”, use Conga music to cue students when to move; all the students dance while the outer circle or line moves.

9. Repeat steps 5-8.