

Accountable Talk

This activity will allow members to:

- Participate in thoughtful and respectful club discussions.
- Connect with their fellow club members.

Materials needed:

- One worksheet per member (print it at buildersclub.org/IDEA)
- Pens or pencils

How to lead this activity:

Advisors might want to lead this activity so that club officers can model accountable talk.

What is accountable talk? It's when you share ideas and opinions while being polite and respectful. Members need to really listen to what other people say—and be clear about their own thoughts and opinions, using good reasons for why they're saying them.

1. Remind members that they will soon choose a service project for the club, so not everyone's first pick will be chosen.
2. Explain accountable talk. Tell members that it's a way of speaking and responding to others in a respectful, thought-provoking way.
3. Give all members an Accountable Talk handout. Each time they respond to a question or share an idea, they should start with one of the sentences on the handout.
4. Ask members to practice accountable talk. Start with an easy question, like: What is the best holiday, and why? Or: What's the best TV show?
5. Ask members to bring the accountable talk handout with them to the next club meeting.

Encourage members, especially club officers, to use accountable talk during every discussion in every meeting moving forward.





Accountable Talk

Responding in a respectful and meaningful way

When participating in a club discussion, use one of the following sentences to share and respond to ideas:

<p>I believe _____.</p> <p>because _____.</p>	<p>I agree with _____.</p> <p>because _____.</p>	<p>I respectfully disagree with what is said because _____.</p>
<p>Could you please clarify what you mean by _____?</p>	<p>I understood that you said _____.</p>	<p>May I point out _____?</p>
<p>Do you mind clarifying what you said _____?</p>	<p>I am definitely interested in hearing more about _____.</p>	<p>Let me add to what we have been discussing _____.</p>
<p>I am confused. Would you mind explaining _____?</p>	<p>Could you please tell me more about _____.</p>	<p>Write other respectful responses here _____.</p>