2 Rigor and Talk Checklist

Students and Dispositions

- ☐ Students are curious, as shown by comments such as "Tell me more . . ." and "Show me how . . ." and "What if we did this . . . ?"
- ☐ Students are reflective, as shown by comments such as "To me, this means. . . ." and "As I understand what you're saying. . . ." and "After thinking about this some more. . . ." and "When I reconsider. . . ."
- ☐ Students tolerate ambiguity, letting multiple ideas or positions exist side by side while evidence is being presented or sorted.
- ☐ Students are patient, giving ideas and others a chance to grow.
- ☐ Students are tentative, meaning they *offer* rather than *assert*, are open-minded rather than narrow-minded, are more interested in questions that are to be explored rather than questions that are to be answered.

Students and Texts

- ☐ Students use texts to expand, deepen, challenge, and clarify their own knowledge.
- ☐ Students use evidence from one or more texts to back up claims.
- ☐ Students make connections within a text.
- ☐ Students make connections across texts.
- ☐ Students refer to what was learned in previously read texts.

Students and Ideas

- ☐ Students change their minds about ideas from time to time.
- ☐ Students hypothesize.
- ☐ Students are able to consider alternative positions and are willing to ask "What if?"
- ☐ Students identify topics that they need to know more about before reaching conclusions.

Students and Reasoning and Evidence

- ☐ Students provide evidence for their statements and opinions.
- ☐ Students present information in some sort of logical order—cause and effect, sequential, lists of reasons or examples.
- ☐ Students avoid "just because" statements.
- ☐ Students recognize faulty assumptions and helpfully encourage each other to examine those assumptions.
- ☐ Students recognize persuasive techniques.
- ☐ Students question the author's motives when appropriate to do so.

Students and Vocabulary

- ☐ Students use language that reflects their understanding of the vocabulary specific to the topic under discussion.
- ☐ Students ask for clarification of words they see and hear but do not understand.