Talk Moves That Help Students Orient to the Thinking of Others

1. “Who can repeat?” You ask students to restate, repeat, or reformulate what another student has said. When a student says something complex but potentially important, you may want to incorporate that into the ongoing discussion. But if student did not hear it, or were not paying attention, they will not be able to take the next step and think about it.

   *Sample Questions:
   Who can repeat?
   Who can say that again?
   Who can put that into their own words?
   Who can restate what... said?
   Can anyone repeat what they heard...say?
   Who can say that again?

2. Turn-and-Talk: “Tell us what your partner said.”
   After a turn-and-talk, you can ask students to tell the whole class what they said to their partner. This participation helps reluctant students speak up. You can also use this practice to help students orient toward the thinking of other. When you ask a student to report out after a turn-and-talk, you can say, “Tell us what your partner said.” For students who would prefer to use the air time for themselves, this helps get across the message that all students are responsible for listening to others and for being able to repeat back what they said.

*Note that these talk moves do not need to be repeated word for word. There are many ways to get the same meaning across.