

# Start a Professional Book Study

Teachers know that encouraging children to talk and listen improves communication skills, but they've lacked a science-aligned method to accelerate language development—until now. This book introduces the “Strive-for-Five” framework, a tool for responsive conversations that begin with children's words and aim for five turns to enhance talking and thinking. With audio clips, anecdotes, and model conversations, Zucker and Cabell show how this method boosts language comprehension, knowledge, vocabulary, reasoning, and confidence.

## Starting a book study helps teachers:

- ✓ Identify and discuss key ideas from the book in a structured yet collegial format.
- ✓ Learn and share tips for implementing the ideas and strategies in the book.
- ✓ Reflect on teaching practices and identify areas for improvement to accelerate professional growth and student success.

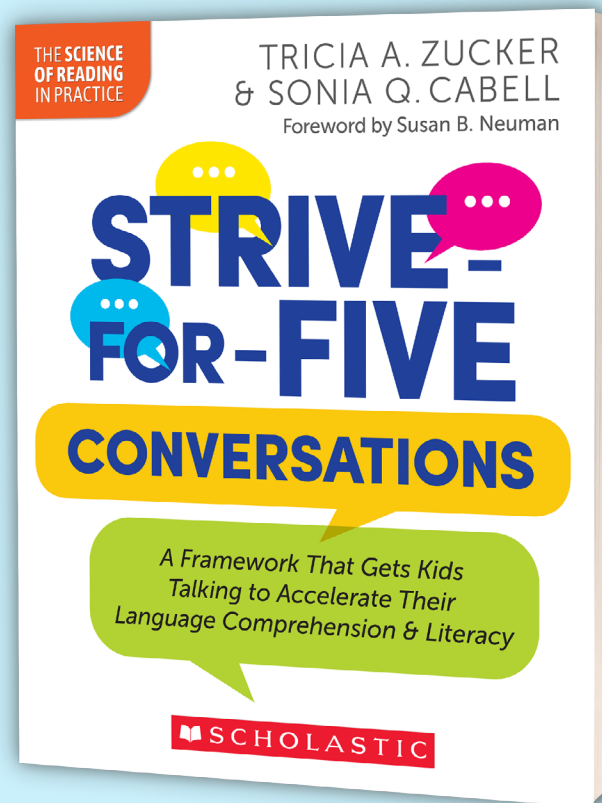
## Scheduling tips:

- ✓ For a quarter-year study, consider meeting at least once a week.
- ✓ For a half-year study, consider meeting at least twice a month.
- ✓ For a full-year study, consider meeting several times in the first month to launch the study, and then at least once a month thereafter.

## Save up to 35%

with purchase of a **30-pack!**\* Visit [scholastic.com/shop-sorseries](https://www.scholastic.com/shop-sorseries).

\*Only applicable for *Strive-for-Five Conversations*. Use code BOOKSTUDY10 at checkout.



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Intentional and impactful conversations can happen with just five turns—or exchanges—that's what we call Strive-for-Five.

— **Tricia Zucker**, co-author of *Strive-for-Five Conversations*

# Meeting Organizer

This organizer provides ideas to engage your group with information from all sections of the book. Feel free to adjust the organization to align with your schedule, and the questions to align with your needs.

## Section

## Discussion Questions

### Part I: Understanding and Implementing the Framework

#### CHAPTER 1:

#### **Strive for Five:**

#### **The Art of True Conversation**

Page 14

1. What are the key components of a Strive-for-Five conversation, and how do they contribute to meaningful interactions between teachers and students?
2. How can educators effectively implement the Strive-for-Five framework to enhance student engagement and language development in the classroom?

#### CHAPTER 2:

#### **Language Comprehension and the Science of Reading**

Page 31

1. How does the Strive-for-Five framework align with the principles of the Science of Reading and language comprehension?
2. What evidence does the book provide to support the impact of structured conversations on students' reading comprehension and overall literacy skills?

#### CHAPTER 3:

#### **Creating Classroom Routines for Strive-for-Five Conversations**

Page 45

1. What strategies are recommended for integrating Strive-for-Five conversations into daily classroom routines?
2. How can teachers create a classroom environment that fosters and supports ongoing Strive-for-Five conversations?

# Meeting Organizer, Continued

## Section

## Discussion Questions

### Part II: Fueling Language Comprehension Through Conversations

#### CHAPTER 4:

#### **Choosing Books That Spark Rich Conversations**

Page 58

1. What criteria should educators consider when selecting books to facilitate Strive-for-Five conversations?
2. How can carefully chosen books enhance the quality and depth of classroom discussions?

#### CHAPTER 5:

#### **Go Nuts With Words! Building Vocabulary With Conversations**

Page 72

1. What are some effective techniques for using Strive-for-Five conversations to expand students' vocabulary?
2. How can teachers measure the impact of conversational vocabulary building on students' language development?

#### CHAPTER 6:

#### **Show What You Know: Supporting Verbal Reasoning With Conversations**

Page 86

1. In what ways do Strive-for-Five conversations support and enhance students' verbal reasoning skills?
2. What specific strategies can teachers use to encourage and develop students' verbal reasoning through conversation?

#### CHAPTER 7:

#### **Did You Know? Conversations Build Knowledge**

Page 103

1. How do Strive-for-Five conversations contribute to students' knowledge acquisition and retention?
2. What role do background knowledge and prior experiences play in enriching Strive-for-Five conversations?

#### CHAPTER 8:

#### **Build on What They Say! Modeling Formal Language Structures**

Page 118

1. How can teachers use Strive-for-Five conversations to model and reinforce formal language structures?
2. What are some examples of how modeling formal language during conversations can benefit students' academic language proficiency?

# Meeting Organizer, Continued

Section	Discussion Questions
Part III: Taking Conversations Beyond the Classroom	
CHAPTER 9: <b>Talking Is Teaching: Strive-for-Five Conversations at Home</b> <div>Page 128</div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What strategies can educators share with parents to encourage Strive-for-Five conversations at home?</li><li>2. How can schools support families in implementing Strive-for-Five conversations outside the classroom to reinforce language development?</li></ol>
CHAPTER 10: <b>Take the Strive-for-Five Conversation Challenge!</b> <div>Page 142</div>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"><li>1. What are the key components of the Strive-for-Five Conversation Challenge, and how can it be implemented in educational settings?</li><li>2. How can teachers and schools track progress and measure the effectiveness of the Strive-for-Five Conversation Challenge on student outcomes?</li></ol>