

*"The careful descriptions of how to prepare for and support discussion that are provided in this volume, together with the concrete examples offered . . . constitute an invaluable resource."*

From the Foreword

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# The Most Reasonable Answer

## Helping Students Build Better Arguments Together

**Alina Reznitskaya and Ian A.G. Wilkinson**

Foreword by Catherine E. Snow

*The Most Reasonable Answer* is an innovative and comprehensive guide to engaging students in inquiry dialogue – a type of talk used in text-based classroom discussions featuring big, contestable questions. Discussions using inquiry dialogue help students develop argumentation skills and deep understanding of the texts they read. Based on years of research and work in nearly fifty classrooms, this book supports teachers in facilitating this type of talk in upper-elementary grades, when children are ready to engage in collaborative and rigorous argumentation based on reasons and evidence – an essential life skill.

Reznitskaya and Wilkinson introduce a robust Argumentation Rating Tool, a rubric highlighting eleven practices and corresponding talk moves that can be used by teachers and students to improve the quality of their arguments by building on and challenging each other's ideas, clarifying meaning, relying on well-examined reasons and evidence, and making logical connections. The authors also include annotated transcripts that illustrate how teachers can effectively facilitate whole-group and small-group discussions using fiction, non-fiction, and multimodal texts.

Packed with a rich array of field-tested materials, *The Most Reasonable Answer* is an essential resource for educators looking for new ways to teach critical thinking and engage students in high-quality discourse.

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**Alina Reznitskaya** is a professor in the Department of Educational Foundations at Montclair State University, New Jersey.

**Ian A.G. Wilkinson** is a professor in the Department of Teaching and Learning at The Ohio State University.

#### CUSTOMER SERVICES

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