Handing Off

Problem: The students are not . . .
1. leading the discussion; it’s teacher led
2. able to use a variety of sentence frames (they use repetitive phrases)
3. grouped together to listen to the whole group
4. able to visually identify the speaker
5. extending/expanding their sentences
6. interacting with one another, they are simple interjecting thoughts/answers
7. following clear teacher modeling
8. having the discussion at all; the teacher is leaving it out
9. not being encouraged to apply comprehension skills/strategies to the discussion
10. pacing themselves well
11. attentive
12. staying on a topic
13. thinking of their own questions, or they are using the exact questions from week’s lesson assessment and/or theme connection pages

Solutions:
1. Video--replay the professional development video for the teacher as a model
2. Encourage the use sentence frames, sentence starters, etc (make them visually available) Example: After a student leads his/her question or comment, to signal that the conversation can move on to a new topic, he/she can say, "Thank you, does anyone else have a question or a comment?", and then call on the next student.
3. Arrange students is a circle/semi-circle so students see each other
4. Be sure students have texts to reference
5. Provide a tangible object to identify the speaker
6. Encourage students to ask questions of each other (who, what, when, where, why, how...)
7. Teacher can provide modeling of the type of conversation expected

Purpose: This is important because . . . .
1) Students need to own the discussion and see the teacher as a contributing member of group.
2) Problem: Students aren’t leading the discussion.
   a. Solution: It is important that students lead the discussion.
   b. Purpose: This is important because students need to own the discussion & see teacher as contributing member of group.
3) Problem: The students are using the same sentence frame over & over.
   a. Solution: It is important that students use a variety of sentence starters.
b. Purpose: This is important because it will allow students to become more actively involved in the learning process.

4) Problem: The students are unable to see one another so as to actively engage each other in conversation.
   a. Solution: It is important that students are able to see one another, so a circle/semi-circle arrangement is critical.
   b. Purpose: This is important because they will be able to communicate and interact with one another about the text in an easier fashion.