

Table 2. Progressive Discourse commitments with student examples.

Commitment	Purpose	Example
Expansion	Contribute ideas or build on existing ideas with or without evidence, without intention of critique.	<p>Steven: My theory is that everything started around here and that this hasn't moved much and everything else has moved. I am thinking that Pangea was by South America.</p> <p>James: It's interesting the only continent that doesn't look like its moved is South America. Everything else has moved... Australia has moved very considerably. And Asia is starting to curve down so its kinda like turned around this way.</p>
Openness	Putting out an idea, but they want feedback on the idea. Back and forth discussion critiquing one another's ideas or an idea.	James: I just think that maybe that is what is happening - one layer is going down while the other layer is coming up. Which is why the mountains are forming in the first place.
Empirical Testability	Talk that implies that the community should support ideas with evidence.	Steven: Yeah, how about trying the Rockies, the Rocky Mountains, to see if they got a gap. If they got a gap, it might have something to do with mountain formation or maybe how they form.
Mutual Understanding	Members of the community come to show they know what each other is saying, even if we don't agree.	<p>James: I think it is kind of doing the same thing here but the only outlier I see is South America.</p> <p>Steven: Because its not going nowhere. It's been kinda just there.</p> <p>James: But it is kinda going that way.</p> <p>Steven: A little bit but um these lines represent where stuff is going to be not where its been. But we can infer from where it's going to where it has been.</p>