

Decodify™ Guide: What to Do When Students Disagree

Use this guide anytime students disagree about a word, a prompt, a rule, or a Key Card. The goal is to resolve the disagreement quickly, calmly, and in a manner consistent with Decodify routines.

If students disagree about how a word is pronounced:

- Say: “Let’s check the word together.”
- Have one student read the word aloud.
- If incorrect, say: “Try another sound.” or “Break it into two parts.”
- If it is still unclear, the teacher reads it, and the student repeats.
- Write the word down for teacher follow-up, and move on.

If students disagree about the meaning of a word:

- Use the Decodify prompt: “Use it in a sentence.”
- Accept any sentence that makes sense.
- If no student can do it correctly, the teacher provides a sentence.
- Move on, and note the word.

If students disagree about whose turn it is:

- Say: “We’ll reset. You go now, and you will go next.”
- No arguing, no recounting, no blame.

If students disagree about the prompt or card instructions:

- Say: “Let’s follow the prompt exactly as it is written.”

If students disagree or are confused about game rules or Key Cards:

- Pause and say: “Let’s take out the Game Rules Pamphlet.”
- Have a student take out the pamphlet.
- Read ONLY the relevant rule.
- Say: “Let’s follow the rules exactly as they are written.”
- Apply the rule immediately, then continue gameplay.

If the disagreement becomes emotional or disruptive:

Use the Decodify Reset:

1. Deep breath
2. Say: “It’s okay—disagreements happen.”
3. Say: “We’re going to move on.”
4. Teacher gives the next card.
5. Allow a brief reset break if needed.