The Collaborative Classroom

Building Analytical Thinkers in Elementary Reading

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Agenda

- Review common challenges to analytical thinking.
- Consider current practice.
- Explore games to develop higher-order thinking.
- Consider Literature Circles: Implementation & Extension.

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Why Critical Thinking?

- A curriculum emphasizing higher order thinking skills substantially increases math and reading comprehension scores of all students, especially economically disadvantaged students (Pogrow, 2005).

- Learning and innovation skills increasingly are being recognized as those that separate students who are prepared for a more and more complex life and work environment in the 21st century, and those who are not. A focus on creativity, ***critical thinking***, communication, and collaboration is essential to prepare students for the future (www.p21.org).

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Keys to Increasing Analytical Skills

- Raise Level of Questions
- Raise Expectation of Participation
- Make Learning = Fun
- Create Active Learner Classroom

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Bloom's Digital Taxonomy

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Techniques to Raise Participation

- Think time
- Cold Calling
- No opt out
- Feedback: redirecting, probing, responding

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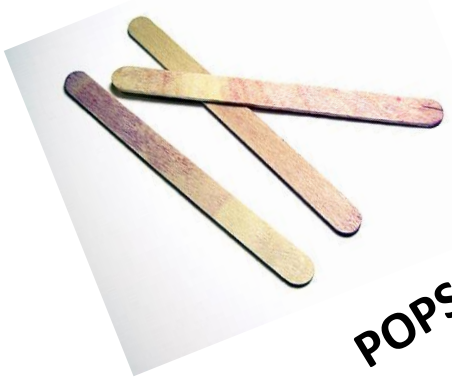
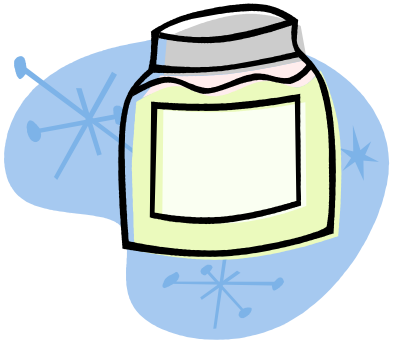
TRICKS OF THE TRADE



POPSICLE STICKS

CLOTHES PINS



JAR OF NAMES

DECK OF CARDS

PHONE A FRIEND

[Card-O-Matic: Increasing Student Participation]

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Literature Circles in Action

Watch the video *Literature Circles in Second Grade*.

- When/how does this teacher implement literature circles?
- What steps does this teacher have to place to ensure success?

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Building the Plan

Determine roles to be filled.

Consider structure of groups.

Select appropriate materials.

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Selection of Groups

Consider…

- Interests
- Reading Levels
- Developmental Needs
- Thinkers
- Differentiation

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