RATIO
Building Ratio Through Writing

Technique: EVERYBODY WRITES

Prepare your students to engage rigorously by giving them the chance to reflect in writing before you ask them to discuss.

Rationale: Increased Participation

Use writing before discussions to give students the benefit of more writing, to foster a more rigorous discussion, and to help them answer questions.

- Ideas get better when students are allowed a few moments of reflection.
- Allowing students time to write before you ask them to discuss builds participation ratio and “think ratio”, enabling all students to participate.

BENEFITS

- Review responses in advance to select students to start discussion.
- Every idea shared aloud is a second draft.
- Enables you to give every student the chance to be part of the conversation.
- Students remember more of what they learned.

To watch champion teachers run this technique with their students, check out the following short video clip: bit.ly/TLACeverybodywrites

Teach Like a CHAMPION

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CLASSROOM STRUCTURE
Systems & Routines

Technique: STAR/SLANT

To maximize students’ ability to pay attention, use sticky acronyms to teach students key baseline behaviors for learning.

WATCH THIS VIDEO:
Watch Sari Fromson as she builds excellent systems & routines. See how her class develops from fall to spring in this short video clip: bit.ly/classroomroutines

LEARN MORE:
Check out this blog post to learn more about the clip and hear Doug’s analysis of a good systems & routines build, bit.ly/dougsfieldnotes

STAR/SLANT BREAK DOWN

S
Sit up

T
Track the speaker

A
Ask and answer questions

R
Respect those around you

S
Sit up

L
Listen

A
Ask and answer questions

N
Nod your head

T
Track the speaker

USE STAR/SLANT TO SELF-CORRECT

Once you’ve taught students how to STAR/SLANT, all you ordinarily have to do is use the phrase, and students are able to use it to self-correct.

*Back in STAR/SLANT*

The use of a consistent acronym is quick and efficient.

*NOTE*

Getting kids to sit up in class and track the speaker is a valuable way to help them attend to and engage in academic content. It’s a healthy habit.

But if it sometimes feels like too much, remember, because you can does not mean you must...is it reasonable to tell students they may sit in a more relaxed mode as long as they are attentive and productive (for example when they are writing)?

Of course.

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