Low Prep, High Yield Activities for Any Classroom

Introduction

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To Learn, Students Need to DO Something

Ideas from Jennifer Gonzalez: Cult of Pedagogy Episode 108

- Sorting
- Kinesthetic work
- Discussion
- Graphic representations
- Writing / Summarizing
- Mini-projects
- Anticipation Guides / “Hooks”
- Note-taking

Connections!
The Incredible Shrinking Note

Summarizing, Finding Key Ideas

Prep: Post-it notes in three sizes
OR Google Form

Resources:
- Sample
- The Middle School Mouth
Memes

Summarizing, Reflecting, Formative assessment

Prep: Collaborative Google Slide Deck

Resources:
- Sample
- Add Text Website
Caption This

Bell ringer, Formative assessment

Prep: Share an image, collaborative Google Slide deck

Resource: Caption This!
Audio Bytes

Summarizing, Connecting

Prep: Video minus the audio (older students can find their own video)

Resources:
- Reinventing Learning for the Always-On Generation (last paragraph)
- Remove Sound from Video
The Four Icon Challenge

Summarizing

Prep: Collaborative Google Slide Deck

Resources:
- Sample
- Video: *Crushing it with Technology* (22:35-22:58)
- Intention: Book: *Critical Creativity in the Classroom*
- Noun Project or Google Image Search
Brain Dump

Learning strategy: Retrieval

Prep: None!

Resource: Brain Dumps: A small strategy with a big impact

Variation: +1 Routine
Give One, Get One

Collaboration, Review, Instruction

Prep: None!

Resource: Give One, Get One
Summary Tree

Summarizing, Topic, Main idea, Details

Prep: Large image of a tree

Resource: Three Summarizing Strategies
Comics

Instruction, Assessment, Graphical representations

Prep: Share templates

Resources:
- Ideas and Digital Templates
- More Templates for Google Slides
- Printable Templates
- The Surprising Benefits of Student-Created Graphic Novels
Four Box Synectics

Summarizing, Reflecting, Formative assessment

Prep: None!

Resource: Four Box Synectics
Annotating, Reflecting, Connecting

Prep: Shared slide deck

Resources:
- Tutorial and Samples
- Template
- #booksnaps

Variation: #mathsnaps, #sciencesnaps
Table Top Texting

Instruction

Prep: Blank paper

Resource: Spotlight on Strategies: Table Top Texting
Vocabulary on a Desert Island

If you could take one vocabulary word (from recent unit, novel, etc.) with you to a desert island, which one would you choose and why.

Other options:
If you could use one word to praise someone...
If you could use one word to insult someone...
If you could abolish one of your words...
If you could make money on one of your words...
The Bracket Challenge

Collaboration, Discussion

Prep: Bracket template

Resources:
- The Bracket Challenge
- Flippity Tournament Bracket
Picture Review

Connecting and Recollecting

Prep: Find an interesting image

Resource: CUE 2017 National Conference Rushtown Hurley Four Fun Activities For Starting Class

(11:15-16:00)
Animated GIFs

Vocabulary, Bell ringers, Discussion prompts, Summaries

Prep: Find some animated GIFs (Google Image Search)

Resource:
- Using GIFs for Learning
- Phenomena for NGSS
- #GIFvocab
- These 20 Educational Gifs Will Teach You More Than A Textbook Can
Creating Animated GIFS

Graphical representations

Prep: None!

Resources:
- **Brush Ninja** for creating hand-drawn Animated GIFS
  - Brush Ninja Examples
  - A New Tool to Help Students Draw to Remember
- **Tall Tweets** for creating Animated GIFS from Google Slides
  - Area of a Triangle
  - Student Example
Sketchnote Exit Ticket

Exit Ticket, Graphical Representation

Prep: None!

Resource: Sketchnotes in School: An Exit Card Activity
Emoji Slides

Summarizing, Formative assessment, Review

Prep: Collaborative Google Slide Deck

Resource: Sample
Which One Doesn’t Belong?

Bell ringer, Exit ticket

Prep: Images, text, numbers in a 2x2 grid

Resources:
- Twitter #wodb
- Twitter @WODBMath
- Which One Doesn’t Belong Website

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What's Common?

Bell ringer, Exit ticket

Prep: Three images

Resource: Sample
Five Card Flickr

Writing, Making connections

Prep: Get Images from Five Card Flickr Website

Resource: Five-Card Flickr Story Is A Keeper!

Variations:

- Five Card Flickr
- Choose your own images
Six Word Story

Summarizing, Reflecting, Formative assessment, Exit ticket

Prep: None!

Resources:
- Twitter #sixwordstory
- Six Word Stories
- Get to Know Your Students

Variation: GIST Summaries
Would You Rather Math

Problem solving
Prep: Choose a problem from the website

Resources:
- Would You Rather Math
- Would You Rather Questions for Kids
Three Images and a Question Presentation

Summarizing, Presenting

Prep: None!

Resources:

- Sample
- Video: Crushing it with Technology
  (37:48-38:51)
- Book: Intention: Critical Creativity in the Classroom
Generate Multiple Ideas

Promote fluency

Prep: Create a task based on a topic of study

Resources:
- Divergent Questioning - Quantity Model
- Fluency: Asking For (Way) More Than One Answer
3-2-1

Summarizing, Exit ticket, Bell ringer

Prep: None!

Resource: Strategy: 3-2-1
Questioning

- Answer a question with a question.
- The answer is... What's the question?
- The Question Continuum - Have students write questions related to a topic or prompt on post-it notes or index cards. As a group, have students order the questions based on complexity.
Collaborative Notes

Learning strategy

Prep: Index Cards, OR post-it notes, OR Padlet OR Google Drawing; Text OR Video related to Unit studied

Resource: Based on an idea from Sketchnotes in the Science Classroom (3:08-3:50)
Hexagon Learning

Sorting, Categorizing, Making connections

Prep: Complete and share template with terms from a current unit

Resources:
- Using Hexagon Learning for categorisation, linkage and prioritisation
- Hexagonal Learning
- Long-Term Learning Strategy: Hexagonal Thinking
- Example
Build a...

Writing, Speaking, Listening

Prep: Share one of the templates

Resources:
- Build a Snowman with Google Slides
- Build a Jack-O-Lantern with Google Slides
- Build a Turkey
- Build a Member of Congress
Biography Playlist

Making connections
Prep: None

Resources:
- Sample
- Video: Crushing it with Technology (49:57-50:19)
- Intention: Book: Critical Creativity in the Classroom
ABC Brainstorming

Assessing prior knowledge, Learning strategy, Review, Character Analysis

Prep: None!

Resource: Alphabet Brainstorm

Variations:
- Collaborative ABC Book
- “Q is for Duck” - Alphabet Guessing Game
#Reading

Comprehension, Summarizing

Prep: None!

Resource: Reaching Reluctant Readers
Consensus Map

Summarizing, Collaboration, Key ideas

Prep: Big paper with consensus map organizer for each group

Resource: Three Summarizing Strategies
Circles and Squares

Summary, Graphical Representation, Formative Assessment

Prep: None!

Resource: 4 Ideas for Promoting Creative Thinking with Your Content
Infographics

Visualizing learning, Summarizing, Synthesizing, Presenting information, Graphical representation

Prep: None!

Resources:
- Samples
- Templates
- Tutorial
- Google Slides icon boards for low-prep, visual thinking
Fluency in writing

Prep: None!

Resources:
- The Most Dangerous Writing Prompts
- Tutorial

Note: Prompts may not be appropriate for younger students.
Think-Pair-Share Variations

Collaborative learning

Prep: Different for each activity

Resource: Think-Pair-Share Variations
Summary Frames

Summarizing Formative assessment

Prep. None!

Resources:
- Summary Frames
Interesting Images

- BBC News in Pictures (search for ‘week in pictures’)
- Gratisography
- National Geographic Photo of the Day
- Over 140 Picture Prompts to Inspire Student Writing
- Vintage Ad Browser
- What’s Going On in This Graph?
- What’s Going On in This Picture?
- Zipplist
Writing Prompts

25 Beautifully Illustrated Thought-Provoking Questions
100 Writing Prompts for Grades 6-8
100-Plus Writing Prompts to Explore Common Themes in Literature and Life
181 Prompts to Inspire Writing and Discussion

Number Talk Images
Photo Prompts
Visual Writing Prompts
Writing Prompts
Templates

Template Palooza!

Engaging Students Resources

Instagram Stories

Flip Book Template

Templates for Teachers

20 activities to Ditch that Textbook in K-2
Tools

- ClassroomScreen
- ClassTools.net
- EdTweet and Text and Snap
- Flippity
- ThemeSpark
Low Prep, High Yield Activities for Any Classroom

Thank you!

Icons used in this presentation are from Noun Project