

A “Hodge-Podge” of Creative Activities for Instructional Use

For your reference, below is a list of the activities and ideas discussed during today’s workshop. With a little ‘tweaking’, the ideas can easily be transferred to and used in most subject areas! Thanks for joining me today!

FUN REVIEW STRATEGIES

Guess Who?: A twist on the board game using pictures of important people, events, etc. Order your own game and rig up your own cards!

Classic Bingo: Create and print your own Bingo cards using your own key terms & content! After 10 years of teaching, this is still a favorite game amongst high school students!

Individual Dry Erase Boards: I ordered some individual mini-white boards from W.B. Mason which are really great to use for review, however, an inexpensive version would be using shiny plastic plates! So clever!

Graffiti Board: Write vocabulary on the board and have students erase a word/concept that they know and explain/give it's definition. Repeat until all the content has been explained & reviewed.

Trivia Egg Hunt: Some time each spring, I fill plastic eggs with trivia questions from content we've learned throughout the year. Then I hide the eggs around the classroom and tell the students to 'hunt' for them! When they've all found one, they open their egg and have to answer the trivia question before they can have the treat inside (usually erasers, small pencil sharpeners, etc.).

Question Reverse: Instead of asking the students a question and having them come up with the answer, give them the answer and have them respond with the review. Really requires them to think in a way their not used to!

Taboo Review: Print out names/vocab on slips of paper. Tape one slip of paper on each student’s back. They have to help each other guess what’s on their backs WITHOUT saying the name/vocab word.

KINESTHETIC ACTIVITIES

When students move around, not only does this target a specific learning style, but it can also really help them remember information and, at the bare minimum, keep them awake!

Examples: We play “pin the tail on the political party” to classify information, ‘John Smith or John Winthrop’, and “corner of the room presidents game” (tape printed terms/concepts throughout the room, say a statement, and have students move to appropriate area). Having students rotate to different ‘stations’ of desks around the room whenever possible also gets them up and active. The ‘agree/disagree’ continuum also gets kids up and moving! I also often have students get up to grab handouts instead of passing them out as often as I can just to get them up and out of their seats.

FUN INSTRUCTIONAL IDEAS

-Document Scavenger Hunt (primary sources, political cartoons, etc.)

Take any documents you want students to analyze and put them around your room or the school. Have a list of key vocabulary on a worksheet...students must then figure out which document best represents each vocabulary word/concept and explain why.

Group Work ‘Master Sticky’ note: Ask students to respond individually in writing. Then put them into a small group and share their responses. Group then comes up with a ‘master answer’ that reflects the best part of each answer.

Hot Seat: Place group assignment, prompt, or anything you’d like on a sticky note underneath the students’ chairs or desk. This is just a fun way to pick groups or have students respond to various ideas in a way that’s more interesting than ‘hey, Johnny, you’re in that group’!

Rearrange Furniture: When in doubt, rearrange your desks every now and then to keep the kids on their toes!

Speed Dating information sharing. Line a row of desks up facing one another. Have students sit in pairs facing one another. For two or three minutes, students share something about the topic they have researched, read about, or experienced. At the two minutes mark, teacher rings a bell and one row gets up and moves to the next seat while the other row remains seated...speed dating style!

Table Texting/Tweeting: Write a quote/prompt/problem in the center of large paper. Have students respond to the prompt in writing only (no talking). They can also read what others have written and respond to in writing. To make it even more fun, you can also have the stick to the 145 character ‘tweet’ rule!

EDUCATIONAL TECHNOLOGY TOOLS

Skype for Guest Speakers (people in real life occupations could Skype in about professions that use your subject; chat with other classes)

Photobooth/iMovie for lessons/lectures/sub plans. Use Photobooth to record a lecture/lesson and use iMovie to put it together. Example: Reconstruction movie

Remind (formerly Remind 101): App/website that allows teachers/coaches to communicate via text with students & parents. I use this with my classes and with the groups I advise. Love it!

QR Codes: Great way to great a link to a website or to save contact information. QR codes are created online (there are lots of free QR code creators) and are read using a QR Reader app on a smartphone.

SCAN ME:



DocScan: Smartphone App that allows you to easily take photos with your phone and convert them to PDFs. Easier than using a traditional scanner!

PikMe: App that randomly puts students into groups/pairs. You can choose the number of groups you want or the number of students you want in each group and it generates a random list every time. I use this quite often!

Using Back Channeling during films: <http://todaysmeet.com/>

Instead of stopping the film every time a student has a question or every time you want to comment, use a private chat to communicate with the students during the film. You can also print out a transcript of the conversation that can be used as a review and/or notes.

HELPFUL RESOURCES

Email Address w/out the spam: <http://www.mailcatch.com>

Awesome Technology Blog for Teachers: <http://www.freetech4teachers.com>

Pinterest (endless resource for all things education):

<http://www.pinterest.com/lincolnlover/all-things-education/>

Kelly-Anne's Blog (there's a section dedicated to school & education):

www.craftyteacherlady.com

CLASSROOM ORGANIZATION

I wrote a blog post all about my organizational strategies here:

<http://www.craftyteacherlady.com/2014/01/classroom-organization-proven.html>

Cell phone 'zone'

Absent Work Bin

In/Out Box system

Sticky Notes for lesson planning

Late Work Tray