

Mini Poster Magic and Other Ways to Encourage Discourse

Kristy Butler
kbutler@fhps.net

Patti Richardson
prichardson@fhps.net

Why it is important

- It is important for students to share their learning and be able to teach each other what they have learned
- Students must be able to present their research from investigations and defend that research to others
- Students can have different parts of content they are responsible for and then share it.
- Talking and writing about content to another person allows you to retain it better than to just listen, you don't really learn it until you teach it

Ways to have kids discourse information

- Mini poster basic set-up
 - Single manila folder information on one or both sides
 - Two manila folders glued together in the middle to make a tri-fold with information on one or both sides
- Temporary posters
 - Can use post-it notes to put titles on folders to easily remove them, use different colors for different parts that are required like question, prediction, data analysis etc
 - Use paper and tape to add information so it too can be easily removed and folders reused if it is something you don't need them to keep
 - These would be used for a quick research in progress where kids are in the middle of a research investigation and needed to share where they were at and/or ask for guidance
 - They could be used for a present and defend to share their investigation, data analysis and explanation, including a picture of their experimental set-up is a great way to show their investigation and then talk about it
 - Used by individual kids or a group of two to share something quickly but succinctly with a small group
- Permanent posters
 - For permanent presentations have them use construction paper or scrap book paper to make more appealing, encourage neat taping or gluing so they look professional
 - Used for research on content or long term projects where a group is putting together a lot of information to share with other groups
 - We have used for Galapagos organisms and Dissections for Evolution projects
- Whiteboards
 - Can be used for present and defend with kids drawing graphs on them and summarizing their explanation and talking about investigation plans
 - Kids are given a specific prompt and a period of time to write it out on the board. These can be shared as a gallery walk, a pass and add or verbal discourse with groups adding parts to whole class discussion
 - Each group can be given a different prompt and a period of time to write it out. These can be shared as a gallery walk, group sharing, jigsawing
 - Kids then take pictures to add information to their BILL (notes), or add to Cornell notes after hearing what others have found important that they left off or copy the whole thing into their BILL
 - Games - pictictionary, scattergories

- Ways to share the posters
 - Gallery walk - one partner stays with the poster while the other partner walks around to the other posters asking questions and gathering information from the other groups. Once the first person gets back the roles are reversed
 - Pass and add - each group starts with the same prompt and has a period of time to write, they then pass the board to the next group and get the board from the group before read what was written and add more information, continue until they get their board back
 - Jigsaw - Kids are in groups with each group having a different prompt, after they are done renumber the kids and have them shuffle leaving one number with the board and dividing up the other numbers
 - Whole class share - Have questions you want to ask of the class to guide the discussion, ask groups to share what they found important about the content, what they think the answer was for your question, something they have a question about still or something they found interesting