



# MAKING THINKING VISIBLE

STAFF PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT

March 4, 2014

## *Design Studio*

Natalie James and Rachel Mainero

"In most school settings, educators have focused more on the completion of work and assignments than on a true development of understanding. Although this work can, if designed well, help to foster understanding, more often than not its focus is on the replication of skills and knowledge, some new, some old. Classrooms are too often places of 'tell and practice.' The teacher tells the students what is important to know or do and then has them practice that skill or knowledge. In such classrooms, little thinking is happening. Teachers in such classrooms are rightly stumped when asked to identify the kinds of thinking they want students to do because there isn't any to be found in much of the work they give students. Retention of information through rote practice isn't learning; it is training."

*Making Thinking Visible, p. 9*

- The purpose of a design studio is for teachers to work with other colleagues to develop lessons/units that *values, makes visible, and actively promotes thinking* in the classroom.
- Specific time set aside to collaborate with others and focus on enhancing the cultures of thinking in the classroom.
- Resources are available to help guide lesson/unit planning.



#RCSTFM

[www.rcsthinkfromthemiddle.com](http://www.rcsthinkfromthemiddle.com)