Mega Visible Thinking, Science 7 and Beyond….   Beth Bowerman, Sarah Lewis, Kara Foutz

Join us for a make and take unit starter! See how to incorporate multiple strategies in one lesson and help kids have fun learning. Create one or more unit/topic collages to use with See Think Wonder, Chalk Talk, Exit Slips, and other strategies to see and display students' prior knowledge.

See Think Wonder:

We use this when starting a new unit. We make group collages and laminate to reuse. There are several pictures all dealing with the new unit. Most are not obvious. We ask the kids to do a see think wonder to get a feel for their prior knowledge. Sometimes we then do a turn and talk to add a bit of sharing! They love to see what others are thinking.

We also use see think wonder with demos. We might show something, have the kids watch in silence, then ask them to write what they see think and wonder on the Smartboard. It is interesting to see how the comments change as they view others thoughts!

Chalk Talk:

This strategy is wonderful to use with large groups to get information without talking. We have used it in our Anchors lunches to find out more about our members. It could be used at the beginning of the year/unit to find out about students likes and interests, prior knowledge, etc.

We have also used it in science in conjunction with see think wonder collages! The students had stations of chart paper with the collages and others with driving questions about the unit. They really enjoyed it. We surveyed them on an exit slip asking what they liked and unanimously they replied getting up and moving around and "seeing" what others thought! We also asked them to use different colored pens to add flare, and then hung them in the hall. Every morning we would catch kids reading them while waiting for the bell.

Gallery Walk:

We have used the gallery walk with engineering projects following completion. One thing we did is ask the "audience" to ask one of the deeper thinking questions (Can you tell me more?, What makes you say that?, Can you say that a different way?, etc.) as well as offer one compliment to each presenter. It was a huge success, and the kids told us they loved interacting instead of being either a solo presenter or silent observer.

Can You Say That Another Way?   What Makes You Say That? Can You Tell Me More? :

All of these thought provoking questions are posted in the back of the room to help remind us to ask for deeper thinking of our students. They are mixed right in with the unit posters so that the kids even see them.   We also use these questions in Edmodo to encourage even more visible thinking in social media….

Turn and Talk:

We have used this when reading new information or when kids share their "best of best" paragraphs to conclude a lab. This is also valuable during labs when groups have a light bulb moment. We ask them to refer back to the driving question at the beginning of the lab and then turn and talk about it specifically.

Stop and Jot:

This is useful when reading or investigating in a lab. The notes help students to answer driving questions or guide their conclusions.

Exit Slips:

These have been used to get quick ideas from students or proof of understanding. A fun thing we do beyond the slip is have students pick up a random one (anonymous, no names) the next class period and share with their partners what others thought. This spurs a great discussion and clears up any misunderstandings. No one is identified so students feel safe answering what they think. They have also been used to vote for the most creative engineering projects following the due date and presentation of their creations. The top five from each class are awarded five extra credit points. This affords motivation beyond the grade to be recognized at the culmination of a large project.

Headlines:

At the end of each unit we ask students to write a headline for that unit. Each class votes on the best of the best in their class. These headlines are displayed in the classroom to remind students throughout the year of the big ideas in Science 7! Those interested in art are offered to make the headlines extra special to display and get extra credit to do so!