BETTER, FASTER, STRONGER, AND MORE CIVICALLY AWARE

Cathy Marston
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NCSS Conference
“We cannot build the future for our youth—but we can build our youth for the future.”

Franklin D. Roosevelt
Are they ready?

- Critical Thinking
- Communication
- Collaboration
- Creativity
Building a 21st Century Student

- Foster a sense of community
- Encourage active listening
- Structure speaking opportunities using collaborative conversation, Socratic Seminar, and Soapbox Speeches
- Utilize Project Based Learning
- Nurturing the civic voice
Foster a Sense of Community

- Create a warm inviting environment
- Set classroom norms for all members of the classroom including the teacher
- Informal interaction with students outside the classroom setting
- Flexible seating
- In class experts
- Daily routine with posted schedule
- Laughter
- Fun
STRUCTURE SPEAKING OPPORTUNITIES

- Think Pair Share
- Line Discussions
- Gallery Walks
- Jigsaw
- Find a partner
- Partner Reading
- The expert chair
- “Cardma” (using cards to group students)
- Cooperative Learning
“Leadership and learning are indispensable to each other.”

~John F. Kennedy~
ENCOURAGE ACTIVE LISTENING

• Model, Model, Model
• Use Conversation Frames
• Make listening fun
COLLABORATIVE CONVERSATION

Constructing meaning is a primary goal of collaborative conversations. Engaged dialogue helps learners build knowledge, increase vocabulary, and identify evidence to support thinking.

Is there a difference between discussion and conversation?
SOCRATIC SEMINAR

• Socratic seminar is a formal discussion, based on a text
• Open-ended questions
• Listen closely to the comments of others
• Think critically for themselves
• Articulate their own thoughts
• Responses to the thoughts of others
• Learn to work cooperatively
• To question intelligently
• Be civil
CONNECT CONTENT TO THE REAL WORLD

• Social Studies does not just occur during a 40-minute block of time

• High quality civic instruction cross all academic subjects

• CNN10
Elmer is corrupt because he lies to animals and he is irresponsible but he is brave and courteous. In Ch 2, the text states, 'We have a nice furnace.'

I think Elmer is a bad citizen because he lied to his mom and he would get in the habit and start living in public.
SOAPBOX SPEECHES

• Two-minutes long speeches
• A soapbox speech is about an issue that the student identifies, not an assigned topic
• It addresses a specific topic
• It includes a call to action
Project based learning

Project-based learning focuses on developing critical thinking and problem-solving skills in the students. Its inquiry-based method of learning to solve the problems given as projects to the students is a style of active learning.
I joined the Looking Glass Club because it seemed to draw me to it. The idea I had was that I could change a lot of people and students perspective on the whole world. All I can say is it has changed my perspective on the whole world.

Vito Clarizio 4th Grade Student
NOT JUST BETTER STUDENTS, BETTER PEOPLE

"If you ask questions you will succeed."
- Gabriel

"This is the room where everything happens."
- Joseph Juce

"Advice from a grade 12. Look deeper than the surface. Inside, there could be something beautiful inside."

"If you come here to be bored, you are in the wrong class."
- C.E.W.

"Knowledge is the key, follow the key."
- Sophia

"Learn, listen, and have fun and follow your dream. By 'hilly'."

"This class is full of memories, laughs, happiness and of course fun."

"If you don't take a horse for a walk in the wrong class, do something to help someone, not for a reward, out of kindness."
- Janey, May
RESOURCES

Socratic Discussion:
• https://www.facinghistory.org/resource-library/teaching-strategies/socratic-seminar
• https://www.paideia.org/socratic-seminar-topics/

Collaborative Conversation Sentence Frames:
• http://www.illinoisliteracyinaction.org/uploads/4/0/7/1/40712613/6_collaborative_conversation_sentence_stems_jb.pdf

Project Based Learning:
• https://www.bie.org/about/what_pbl