

ELA Strategies for Grades 4-6

Vol. 1 Issue 4
June 2022

Instructional Strategies

Debates

Debates are a structured form of argumentation. They require students to research concepts/topics and think critically in order to present their positions in a convincing and justifiable way. Debates help students develop listening and presentation skills along with new perspectives and ideas for future research.

Debate speeches are organized in a familiar format for students. It begins with an introduction, requires supporting details, and ends with a conclusion. This is the same structure that students use when writing about reading. The major difference is the rebuttal component. The idea of a rebuttal is new for upper elementary students so it should take center stage of the lesson.

Introduction: Introduce yourself, the topic and the side you will be arguing for, and your claim..

Support Your Idea: Have 3-4 strong and relevant points to support your claim.

Rebuttal: Address and state a reason that will counter what the opposing side is claiming.

Conclusion: Restate your claim and points and then thank the audience with eye contact.

Assessment Strategies

Game Show

Use a game show format to move through a series of questions rapidly. This is a popular technique for review and reinforcement of important information. Present a grid (or list) of questions on a whiteboard or PowerPoint.. Divide students into teams. Provide a bell for each team. The game show format is most appropriate for multiple choice or short answer questions.

Hop on the Internet and search for game show techniques for assessing students in the classroom. You will find lots of free ideas and templates to use! Prezi presentations work very well. You can make a copy of this [Grammar Game Show](#) and add your own content.

Game play definitely contributes to retention but also establishes a fun, engaged classroom which is foundational to student learning!

Flippity

Quizizz

Quizalize

#ditchbook

Wakelet Scavenger Hunt

Kahoot!

Quizlet

Factile

Prezi

Google Docs



Classroom / Time Management Strategies

Brain Break

Several breaks throughout the day will help students stay focused. A few minutes of movement can reset attention. Brain breaks are short activities that stimulate curiosity which in turn will boost student motivation and improve their mood. Set aside time during class for creativity. Below are a few ideas for brain breaks.

Ear-Nose Switch -- hold their left ear with their right hand and the nose with their left hand. Repeat with the other hand. The mix up of the hands will lead to hilarious results.

Stretching Exercise -- stand with feet apart, right hand on hip, lift the left hand close to the left ear. Bend toward the right. Switch sides.

Doodle Break -- give the students a 5-minute break and ask them to doodle something on a sheet of paper. This activity also encourages creativity and innovative thinking.