



Coach's Corner

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"The mediocre teacher tells. The good teacher explains. The superior teacher demonstrates. The great teacher inspires."
-William A. Ward

Time Fillers

Have you ever finished your lesson, looked at the clock, and realized you still have about 3-5 minutes before the bell rings? This is not uncommon, but it is so important to be prepared so that we don't fall back on something ineffective for those extra minutes...like "start working on your homework." There are many fillers we can implement, everything from simple quizzes to arts integrated checking for understanding.

Quiz

A quick and easy filler is simply a quiz. As content experts, it is easy for us to come up with a couple *checking for understanding* questions on the fly that students can answer and turn in on their way out. Also, just using the word **quiz** puts students in a different mindset and all of a sudden makes the work feel more valuable. Take the Bloom's Cheat Sheet attached and tape it to your clipboard!

Cornell Note Strategies

The essence of the Cornell Note system goes beyond that of a format, and can be a great time filler. Have students exchange notes and look for things they missed. Give student specific requests for revising their notes: highlight something important, create a question for something you don't understand, or underline key words for the topic. You can even ask them to use their notes to design questions for a quiz. Cornell strategies are a great time filler that will help reinforce the lesson.

Instagram

Any chance to build on the students' social media experiences is a great way to create engaging fillers. Have students design an image with a caption that recaps the lesson. You can take this further by having students pass around their instagram image for others to comment. You can print out multiple copies of the instagram sheet, or just one for each student and have them house it in a plastic sleeve that way students can write on it with an expo marker which can be easily erased and reused multiple times. See attached!

Twitter

Creating tweets is also a great filler that forces students to synthesize information into just 140 characters. Students can make their tweets on post it notes and stick them to the door on the way out. You can even create a twitter wall where each student has their own personalized feed and fellow classmates can make comments on the various twitter feeds. Again, as content experts it is easy for us to come up with a *checking for understanding* question for students to respond to.

Vine

Similar to tweeting, the vine is a chance for students to synthesize the lesson into a 6 second video. This can be done in groups or individually and then performed for the class. Be specific in your directions and provide parameters.

Tableau

Tableaus are a great way to synthesize a lesson nonverbally. A tableau is a still picture that captures the essence of a topic. Split students into groups and give each group a question that will check their understanding of the lesson. Each group must then design one or multiple still pictures that answer the question.

Upcoming Events

The Teacher Center will be offering a mini-series every other Tuesday

October 27th

All Teachers

Cornell Notes:
Next Steps

November 10th

All Teachers

The Power of an
Effective Do Now

Mini Series sessions are offered during periods 4-7.

Each session starts 10 minutes after the bell and lasts 30 minutes.

Grab a snack and stop by for:

Strategies on the go!