

Lesson Plan #4 - Writing

Title: STRIP-TEASERS: A COLLABORATIVE WRITING ACTIVITY

Objective: In this lesson, students of all levels will develop writing skills and foster creativity, critical thinking skills, and teamwork.

Session time:

30 minutes

Materials:

- paper
- pencils or pens

Procedure:

Step 1:

- Fold sheets of 8-1/2 x 11" paper into thirds (as you would a business letter)
- Tear sheets along folds, into strips.
- Give each student three strips.

Step 2:

- Ask each student to write a sentence on each of the 3 strips. Tell them it doesn't matter what the sentence is. It can be about anything.
Examples: My dog is cute. The weather is cold. I lost my pajamas.
- If a student says he/she cannot write a sentence, ask that student to simply write a word or a phrase on the strip.

Step 3:

- Ask students to trade their 3 completed strips with 3 other students.

Step 4:

- Group students in pairs, or in teams of 3.
- Each student should now have 3 strips that he/she did not write.
- Each team of two should have 6 strips; each team of 3 should have 9 strips, none of which were written by anyone in their groups.

Step 5:

- Tell students their team's or group's task is to **write a paragraph or story that makes sense**, using the sentences they have. They will almost certainly need to add phrases or words to what they have, in order to accomplish this goal. However, they must use all of the sentences or phrases **as they are written** in the paragraph or story that they create.

Step 6:

- Ask each group of students to read aloud the sentences they had to work with, and then to read the paragraph or story they created using those sentences.

Conclusion:

Facilitate a discussion of what each group had to do to their sentences to ensure that the paragraph or story made sense.

Examples:

- *Did you add words such as “because,” “while,” “since,” etc. Why or why not? Did you add words such as “and” or “but.” Why or why not?*
- *What new sentences, phrases or words did you add to achieve continuity or “flow” of the topic or idea?*
- *How did you decide as a team in what order to put the sentences?*
- *Name one thing that you learned from this activity.*