

Building Academic Thinking, Language & Literacy through Content

Suzanna McNamara & Annie Smith, RITELL: May 5, 2018

Activity	Ways this Supports Newcomers
Lead with an Essential Question (EQ) Teacher plans thematic unit with a high interest essential question that guides teaching and learning. Students translate the question and return to it often throughout the unit.	 EQ is lens on learning. EQ contains rich, universal concepts that push critcal thinking. EQ gives purpose for viewing/ reading.
Provide a Glossary Teacher creates a 1 pager with key words and phrases (with images) needed to access and talk about the input (image, video, or text).	 Teaches how to use resources. Positions students as active viewers/ readers. Students interact to confirm meaning.
View-Retell or Read-Retell Teacher presents video or reads text aloud in "chunks." Partners retell the text in home language then English.	 Breaks down input into parts. Home language allows students to show understanding. Who + do + more information structure supports English output. Students are active meaning makers.
Picture Talk & Write Each pair of partners labels a picture, generates oral sentence(s) to describe the picture, and writes the sentence(s).	 Partners focus on generating as much language as possible with one focus. Students use language resources. Oral rehearsal supports writing.
Shared Writing Partners read their sentences to contribute to a shared text that the teacher scribes on chart paper/ smart board. The teacher then types the text for extension activities.	 The "parts" of partner writing come together in a "whole" text summary. Each pair of partners contributes to the whole. The typed text is used for extensions.
Extensions Fluency • Annotate & Re-Read Shared Writing Text • Partner Fluency Read Critical Thinking • But-So-Because • Claim-Example (Ex. Personality Traits) • Connect to EQ/ Determine Theme	Move from the literal understanding from the retell and shared text to both fluency activities and critical thinking.