

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

SIX WORD STORY



By writing a summary with a limited number of words, students must focus on the important ideas and become thoughtful in their word choice. The purpose of this strategy is for students to discern the most important ideas and summarize information for any topic by studying an image, video, or article.



Materials: A sample image for practice; an image, video segment, or article from Discovery Education that reinforces a concept in the curriculum; paper for images; markers

1. Introduce the strategy to your students by selecting an image from the media search. Have the students describe what they see. Then, ask them to predict what happened before and after the photo was taken. Students should provide a reason or use evidence from the image for their shared response.
2. Students will create their six word stories from the first practice image. Afterwards, they will share their stories with partners to discuss the similarities and differences between their stories.
3. Next, have students read an article, examine an image, or view a video segment. Have them create three different versions of a six word story to see how they can capture the concept in different ways.
4. Have students work in pairs to share their stories and select one final version. They should explain their thought process in the creation of their story.
5. To finish up, students will create a visual for their six word story.

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This strategy is a great way to encourage students to creatively select important ideas and summarize.



**To the streets,
speak our minds**

**People are poor,
speech is free**

**Wall Street
greed breeds
people's anger**



Another option for using this lesson might be to use an online art or photo editing tool like Sumo Paint or Pic Monkey to have students layer their six word stories to an image. When students use images from Discovery Education, the citation information is available to give proper attribution.