

# SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

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

## SURROUND SOUND



Hearing a few notes of sound can transport us back in time to an important moment or take us to faraway places that we find comforting. According to Fast Company, *“There’s no doubt about it, sound is immensely powerful. And yet 83% of all advertising communication we’re exposed to daily (bearing in mind that we will see two million TV commercials in a single lifetime) focuses, almost exclusively, on the sense of sight. That leaves just 17% for the remaining four senses. Think about how much we rely on sound. It confirms a connection when dialing or texting on cell phones and alerts us to emergencies.”*

Essentially, sound is an under-utilized tool/resource. By taking away the sense of sight for a moment and asking students to focus on the sounds themselves, we allow students to use their creative imaginations to visualize situations and travel back in time and all across the globe.



Materials: audio segment or sound effect file related to content, paper, writing utensil

1. As students enter the classroom, have a sound effect playing.  
*Tip: set the sound to loop, so it continues playing as long as needed.*
2. When students take their seats, have them close their eyes and visualize what the sound brings to mind.
3. With the sound still looping, have them open their eyes and answer the following questions:
  - What do you hear?
  - What do you know about what you are hearing?
  - How do these sounds make you feel?
  - How do you think the people in this situation are feeling?
  - What do you wonder about this event?

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To wrap up this activity, ask students to reflect as a whole group by discussing questions and sharing connections they have made about the sounds they've heard. As students discuss, the teacher can listen for misconceptions they may have as well as gauge the background knowledge students have about the topic.



- Pause and replay the sound several times to provide students time to think about what they're hearing as they reflect on the sounds.
- Extend this activity by asking students to generate a written response to the class discussion.