

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

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

TABLE TOP TEXTING



According to a report by Pew Internet and American Life Project, "...texting ranks as the number one mode of communication among teenagers. Kids between the ages of 12 and 17 text a median of 60 times a day...up from 50 in 2009." It is important that educators find creative ways to use kids' preferred mode of communication.



Materials: blank paper, pens, pencils, markers, and video segment on the chosen topic

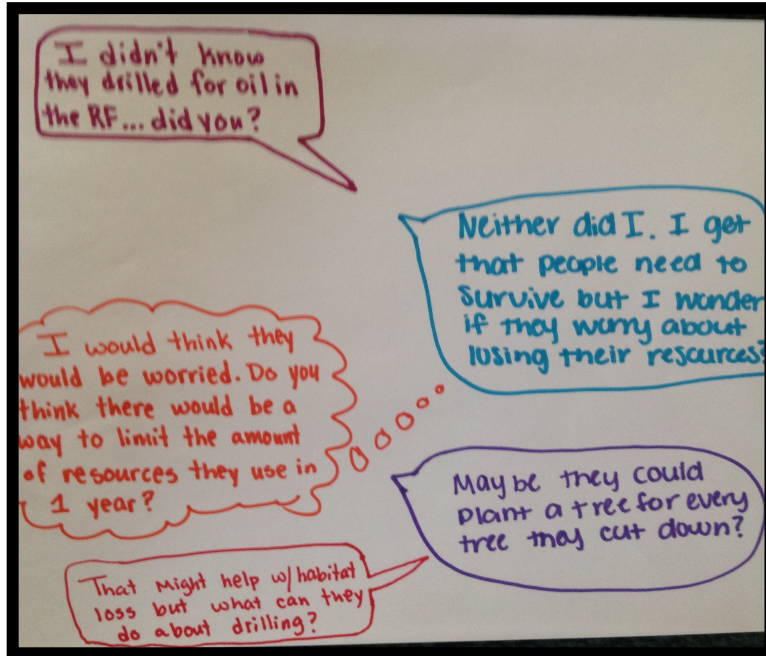
1. Select a video segment that matches your current curriculum.
2. Distribute 1 piece of blank typing paper to each student and ask that they take out their pens, pencils, and/or markers.
3. Inform students that they will be watching a video and approximately every minute you will pause to give them a moment to process, reflect, and respond to the content being presented.
4. Explain to students that each time you pause, they will be allowed 60 seconds to answer a question, make a statement, and ask a new question. They will do this by pretending they are texting their neighbor. They can draw conversation bubbles, use different colors of pens, or anything else that might add creative flair to their "texting thread."
5. Play the video segment and pause approximately every 60 seconds.
6. During the first pause, have students write a statement about something they learned and a question.
7. During the second pause, have students pass their papers to the right. They now need to provide a response to the question, write a new statement, and ask a new question.
8. During the third pause, either have students pass their papers back to the left or continue passing to the right. Repeat the process until the segment has ended.
9. Wrap up the strategy by having students share with the class some of the questions and responses that were brought up during the texting process.

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This strategy is a great way to engage students in the content by using a form of communication that makes up an integral part of their day. This strategy will also encourage students to think and respond on a higher level.



Pose a higher-level question and post it on a bulletin board area. Have students respond to the initial question and ask a new and relevant question by texting their response on post-it notes and sticking them onto the bulletin board. Students can respond to what has been posted, and it will become a class "texting thread."