

SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

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

THEY SAID WHAT?!?



If you ask a student what it takes to do well in social studies, they will likely say a good memory. Historians disagree. It's much more than that. "To historians, history is an argument about what facts should or shouldn't mean. Even when historians are able to piece together the basic story of what happened, they rarely agree about what an event means or what caused it" (Thinking Like a Historian - Wineburg). How do we help change students' perspectives? We do that by putting them in a picture.



Materials: one image and writing utensils

1. Select one image that corresponds with your unit containing a minimum of two characters or animals.
2. Within the image, create speech bubbles through drawing or use sticky notes.
3. Display the image to students and have them share what they see, know, and wonder about the scene.
4. Explain that they will be inferring what the characters may have said to each other or in their minds about what was happening.
5. Provide time for students to fill in the speech bubbles.
6. Have students share their work in small groups looking for similarities and differences between the dialogues.
7. Each group will select what they feel is the best dialogue representation to share with the whole class.
8. Have designated students share with the whole class.

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This strategy requires students to demonstrate understanding of the content using speech bubbles to provide context to an image. Students must use supporting evidence from their unit of study to make their inference.

Below is an example of what an image would look like with speech bubbles drawn.



- Have students take on the role of a character in the image and re-enact it using dialogue from speech bubbles.

- Have students uses a series of images or their own drawings to create a comic strip.

Special Thanks:

★ This strategy is courtesy of Carmella Doty from Prince George's County Public Schools in MD.