

Activators & Summarizers

The following are brief synopses on the activities listed in Jon Saphier's booklets titled Activators, Summarizers.

ACTIVATORS

Brainstorm

Surface all student ideas on a topic without judgement, sort them into categories, label the categories.

Carousel Brainstorm

Write a question/subtopic on different charts, send small groups to each chart to brainstorm, rotate groups through the different charts.

Corners

Post choices about topic in corners of the room, students go to their choice and share reasons for their choices, second student paraphrases the first student's reason.

Draw a Picture or Diagram

Have students pictorially represent what they know. Return to their picture after the unit to demonstrate their growth.

Estimation Lineup

Students line up based on their estimation or ranking on a topic, fold the line to form student pairs who then share their reasons.

Five Words- Three Words

Individual lists 5 words about a topic, small group consolidates the individual lists into 3 words to share.

Human Treasure Hunt

Find students to complete the phrase "Some who...." In relation to topic studied.

Know, Think I Know, Want to Know

Three-column chart created using student input.

Medium Size Circle

Group of 5 to 10 students takes turns sharing on a selected topic, paraphrasing what the previous students said.

Mental Imagery

Teacher created narration to evoke mental images in the minds of students.

Paired Verbal Fluency

Student pairs take turns sharing information, then categorize statements into "true, need clarification, need to ask question."

Sort Cards: Words or Pictures

Students sort teacher- created cards into categories.

Three Step Interview

Students interview each other in pairs about prior knowledge on a topic.

Walking tour

Students "visit" charts that have passages or pictures and share what they know.

Wordsplash

Students create sentences about a topic using key words that were selected by the teacher.

SUMMARIZERS

A* B* C

Students generate topic-related words that begin with each of the letters or the alphabet.

Best Test

Student groups create their “ best test “ for the unit studied justifying why the test is good.

Biopoems

Students create a poem on a topic using line prompts.

Board Games

Students create a game on a studied topic.

Carousel Brainstorm

Write a question/subtopic on different charts, send small groups to each to brainstorm, rotate groups through the different charts.

Cue Cards

Students are permitted to bring cue cards to the written assessment and then submit the cards with the assessment. The size of the paper is decreased over time until no cue cards are permitted.

Draw a Picture of Diagram

Have students pictorially represent what they know.

The Envelope, Please

Students on entering are given sealed envelopes containing a question. Throughout the class the teacher selects a student to answer the question in their envelope.

The Important Thing

Students write a synopsis using an established format.

Inside-Outside Circles

Students create questions then form two circles on inside the other. Students in the inner circle pair with one in the outer circle and ask their question. Students move through the circle.

The Last Word

Students use the letters of a topic word to create phrases related to the word.

Learning Buddies

Designated pairs that will be asked to come together periodically to summarize.

Learning Logs

Individual student reflection on their learning.

Luck of the Draw

At the end of class student name(s) are drawn from a container to be the summarizers of the current day's information at the beginning of the next day.

Medium Size Circle

Groups of 5 to 10 students take turns summarizing on a selected topic, paraphrasing what the previous students said.

One Question Quiz

Students respond while teacher walks around to check.

One Word Summary

Students create one word or mnemonic to summarize.

Paired Verbal Fluency

Student pairs take turns sharing information, then categorize statements into “ true, need” clarification, need to ask question.”

Relay Summary

Students summarize in teams, the first student writing a sentence then passing the paper, etc.

Sort Cards: Words or Pictures

Students sort teacher-created cards into categories.

Synecotics

Student’s in-groups generate a list of objects with no relationship to the topic, and then they explain how the objects are like a selected topic word.

10/2

After 10 minutes of teacher centered instruction students spend 2 minutes summarizing

3*2*1

Students respond to prompts requesting 3 things that... , 1 idea that ...

Ticket to Leave

Students write something about the class and give it to the teacher prior to leaving.

Write a Rap

Students create rhymes about the topic setting it to music