



EPISODE 4

STORIFICATION: CONNECT STUDENTS WITH CONTENT



How do we increase student engagement? How do we make learning relevant?

SUMMARY

- Teachers strive to engage students in their learning in a variety of ways
- Three important facets of engagement are connection, cognition, and collaboration
- To connect students with content - a strategy called storification can spark curiosity, build relevance, and engage students in lesson content
- Use storification to reframe topics of study into the format of a narrative, capitalizing on story elements like conflict, characters, and tension
- Weave the storyline throughout an entire lesson or unit

RESEARCH

- Research shows students learn better when they connect emotionally with their learning
- Emotions, learning, and memory are intertwined
- Stories draw on our personal experiences to improve interest, comprehension, and retention of information

HOW TO: STORIFICATION

- Focus in on the big idea (essential question or key concept) in the lesson or unit
- Draw out a conflict (obstacle, challenge, or problem to overcome)
- Create a “character” or draw on historical figures to personify the conflict
- Spark interest with a visual representation of the conflict or characters (photo, image, cartoon, document, brief video/audio clip)
- Present a scenario to build background knowledge, create tension and spark curiosity about the origins or impact of the conflict
- Follow up on this scenario throughout the lesson/unit
- Intentionally share the resolution of the “story” at the end of the lesson or unit

CLICK FOR A DETAILED IMPLEMENTATION CHECKLIST



CONNECTED CLASSROOMS



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DISCUSSION

- How do we define student engagement? Is it about interesting lessons? Is it about student participation? Demonstrating understanding?
- How can we engage a diverse classroom of learners?
- How do we make learning relevant?
- How do we connect students to the content they're learning? How do we get them to invest emotionally?
- If you used "storification," how would that impact engagement in your classroom?
- What challenges do you anticipate in implementation?
- What adaptations would you make for your grade, subject, and classroom?

SOURCES

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