

POWERFUL Instruction

South Lewis
“Tip of
the Month”



Each month the administrators will share with our entire faculty a strategy or example of a great teaching practice. We understand that each of you has a fantastic “bag of tricks.” Sometimes it’s nice to get a new idea, think about something differently, or re-visit a strategy you may have forgotten about. This is our attempt to take a lead on collaborating, collecting and sharing effective instructional ideas amongst us all. 😊

November ‘15

Engaging ALL Students,
Collaboration & Summarizing

How often do we say at the end of a lesson, “Does anyone have any questions?” You need to ask this because you may occasionally get a question. However, most likely you will either get no questions or else the same student or students will pose the questions.

Instead, put the class into pairs or groups of three or four and say: “You have three minutes to come up with two good questions about what we have just been studying. Put your names on the top of a sheet of paper, record two good questions, and be ready for me to collect your papers in three minutes.”

What will this accomplish?

You’ll get all students THINKING and talking within their groups whereas when you throw out a request for “any questions” to the entire class, most students don’t even give thought to it.

You’ll get a better quality of questions; in other words the best questions will rise to the top because as students discuss the task within their pairs or groups, some of the questions they might have asked in front of the entire class are answered by their peers.

Most importantly, you have now gotten all students to reflect and process what they have just learned, which will put what you taught into long-term memory since the students had to mentally summarize what they learned.