



CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

TEACHING STRATEGY: EVIDENCE LOGS

Overview

In this classroom video, social studies teacher Elena Maker uses the Evidence Logs teaching strategy with her students to prepare them for their upcoming Socratic seminar. Evidence logs provide a place where students can gather and organize evidence they collect over the course of a unit. These students are using this strategy to help organize evidence they find that is related to an essential question:

How do our personal stories influence how we fight for justice?

In particular, they are considering the personal stories of civil rights activists Yuri Kochiyama and Angela Davis. Drawing on prior lessons that the students have explored in the My Part of the Story unit, this class is considering how identity shapes people's choices and actions.

Questions to Consider

1. At **0:39**, Ms. Maker says that the students “started the evidence logs in the middle of September,” suggesting that she has used evidence logs with her students since the beginning of the school year (note: this lesson was filmed in November). What impact do you think this practice will have on her students’ note-taking abilities as the year progresses?
 2. At **2:35**, a student has shared a quote she included in her evidence log. Ms. Maker asks the class, “What does this quote mean?” How does she help break this quote down with her students?
 3. At **3:35**, Ms. Maker says, “From my perspective, [evidence logs] help me frame what we’re doing.” What does she mean by that? In this class, Ms. Maker is helping her students prepare for a Socratic seminar; how might you use evidence logs with your students?
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Featured

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Video Goals

- **Learn** how evidence logs can help organize students’ notes, giving them easier access to specific evidence they can use to support their claims.
- **Consider** how the teacher guides her students in how to use evidence logs.
- **Observe** students determining how to use evidence logs and take notes effectively.

Lesson Resources

- [My Part of the Story: Exploring Identity in the United States](#)
- [Teaching Strategy: Introducing Evidence Logs](#)
- [Black Is . . . Black Ain’t](#) (video)