



CLASSROOM VIDEO • VIEWING GUIDE

TEACHING STRATEGY: GRAFFITI BOARDS

Overview

History teacher Jenny Staysniak is about to introduce a culminating Action Project to students in her Catholic Social Justice in Action elective course. In order to brainstorm ideas for students' projects, Ms. Staysniak opts to use the Graffiti Boards teaching strategy. Graffiti boards are a shared writing space (e.g., a large sheet of paper or whiteboard) where students record their comments and questions about a topic. The purpose of this strategy is to help students "hear" each other's ideas. Some benefits of this strategy include that it can be implemented in five to

ten minutes, it provides a way for shy students to engage in the conversation, it creates a record of students' ideas and questions that can be referred to at a later point, and it gives students space and time to process emotional material. You can use the Graffiti Boards strategy as a preview activity by introducing a new topic and helping students to organize any existing knowledge about that topic. You can also use this strategy to prepare for a class discussion or writing assignment about a text by asking students to share their reactions to the text on the graffiti board.

Questions to Consider

1. What has Ms. Staysniak done ahead of time to make this strategy successful?
2. This particular class only has eleven students. What, if anything, would you need to do to use this strategy with a larger class?
3. Throughout the time that students are at the chalkboard, Ms. Staysniak is making observations aloud to the class. Why do you think she does this?

Featured

Jenny Staysniak

Teacher

10th–12th Grade

Mount Alvernia High

School

Newton, MA

Video Goals

- **Witness** how the Graffiti Boards teaching strategy can be used in a brainstorming activity.
- **Consider** choices the teacher makes as she uses the strategy that render the lesson more effective.
- **See** the Graffiti Boards teaching strategy in action.

Lesson Resources

- [Teaching Strategy: Graffiti Boards](#)