

# Social and Emotional Learning

## Lesson Title: Mnemonics

## Grade Level: Middle School

### Project and Purpose

Students create classroom posters for mnemonics that will enhance their studies.

### Essential Question

How do mnemonics help us remember information?

### Materials

- Mnemonics Examples slide/handout
- Poster board
- Markers/pencils/crayons/etc.
- Art supplies as needed

### Teacher

1. Post: "Mnemonic is a fancy word for memory tool." Ask students to define what they think that statement means. What is a memory tool? Why do we need memory tools?
2. Explain that mnemonics are ways of remembering information that is usually challenging to remember. Mnemonics are often simple rhymes or sayings or sentences that organize difficult or bulky information so our brains can hold onto it easily.
3. Provide students with examples of mnemonics (use the slide/handout provided on the next page).
4. Ask students to identify the examples of acrostics (using the first letters), rhymes, images, and/or clever sayings. Which ones put things in order? Which ones give you a good picture of the information? Why are the mnemonics helpful?
5. Ask students to think of the different kinds of lists of information or processes they are expected to remember in their classes or during different activities. Use the following list to help brainstorm:
  - **art** (the color wheel, the elements of art, etc.)
  - **music** (notes on the treble clef staff, genres of music, etc.)
  - **dance** (styles of dance, steps of simple dances, etc.)
  - **PE** (steps in a certain exercise, names of positions on certain sports teams, etc.)
  - **science** (colors in a rainbow, classifications, etc.)
  - **math** (order of operations, rules for processes, etc.)
  - **English** (spelling rules, grammar rules, etc.)
  - **history** (dates, historical figures, etc.)
  - **geography** (continents, regions, etc.)
  - **general school rules/processes** (behavior expectations, playground rules, etc.)



## Mnemonics Examples

### To remember spelling rules:

"I" before "E"

Except after "C",

And when sounded like "A"

As in "neighbor" and "weigh."

### The principal is your pal. (To help us remember spelling.)

### To remember order:

**My Very Energetic Mother Just Served Nice Plums**

(Order of planets in distance from the sun: Mercury, Venus, Earth, Mars, Jupiter, Saturn, Neptune, Pluto)

### To remember long division steps:

Does **McDonald's sell burgers?** Divide, multiply, subtract, bring down

### A HANDS-ON way to remember the five kinds of salmon:

- The thumb is CHUM (rhyme)
- The pointer finger can POKE your eye out (image, feeling)
- The tall finger is KING (image)
- The ring finger is SILVER (just like the ring on a finger) (image)
- The pinkie stands for PINK (word clue)