



The mission of GISD is to ensure that every student achieves maximum potential.

GISD Curriculum News

rigor/engagement/higher-order thinking

From the Desk of Keri Thoele,
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RBIs and TPTs

Create a classroom environment where kids are cognitively engaged – where students are both challenged and enjoying learning!

Research-based instructional strategies (RBIs) and Total Participation Techniques (TPTs) can do more than add spice to your classroom. Used properly, these highly engaging strategies and techniques also spark students to use higher-level thinking skills. At GISD, we don't just want

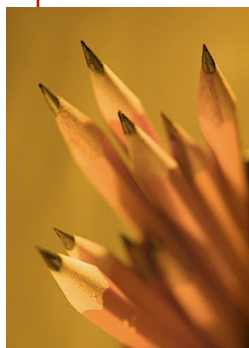
students engaged, we want them **cognitively engaged**, which means that the engagement supports rigorous cognitive development. We like to call that learning!



The definition of "teacher" is one who causes others to learn!

Strategy of the Week:

Whiteboard Splash



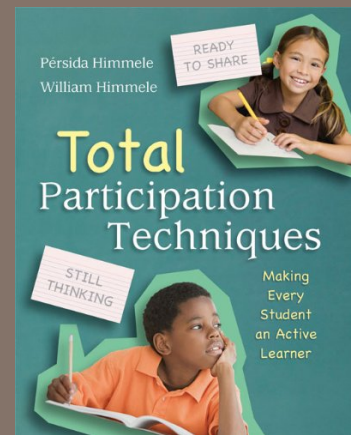
Whiteboard Splash

Concept: We've been using "Think-Pair-Share" for several years, but what if you want to take that activity to the next level and have kids compare the results? In "Whiteboard Splash" answers are recorded and then a classroom discussion occurs that gets kids to analyze and evaluate the answers.

Procedures: 1. After presenting information or a reading passage, ask a relevant question (for example, "Which form of government best meets the needs of the governed?" or "Which detail in the story best supports the main idea?" 2. Think-Pair-Share (get a partner and share your ideas). 3. Record your idea(s) on chart paper. 4. Debrief by having students walk around to each chart paper and record similarities/differences/and surprises that they find in the answers. 5. In larger groups or as a whole class, have students share these insights.

HINT: Your initial question or stem should not be a recall answer. It should involve higher-level thinking to achieve cognitive engagement. Also, the movement in the activity is important. It gets students on their feet and relieves monotony. Finally, you can easily create a graphic organizer onto which students record similarities, differences, and surprises.

Similarities	Differences	Surprises



Buy the Book

Chalkboard Splash, a variation of Whiteboard Splash, is one of many ideas presented in this quick-read but packed-with-ideas book by Persida and William Himmele. It is published by ASCD, Alexandria, VA.

Bloom's Taxonomy

Old Bloom's

- Knowledge
- Comprehension
- Application
- Analysis
- Synthesis
- Evaluation

New Bloom's

- Remembering
- Understanding
- Applying
- Analyzing
- Evaluating
- Creating

Notice that old Bloom's used nouns; new Bloom's uses verbs. The focus is on the learner **DOING** something instead of receiving something. Also, now "creating" is considered the highest level of thinking.