



Engaging Curious Learners: Break Our Room Instructional Sheet

Prompt: How might you design an interactive activity in the kitchen or garden (or both) focused on strawberries that utilizes the tenets of critical thinking, encouraging questions, and promoting sensory observations?

Directions: In your breakout group, use the following steps to design an activity that fits the prompt. Decide on one person to take notes and share what was discussed.

1. Decide on who your audience is—*what age range is the activity for?*
2. Decide on what the primary activity is—what will students be doing? *Are they planting strawberry plants? Are they tasting strawberries?*
3. Choose one of the three **thinking routines** examples (or a different one you like to use!) in the activity. *How and when in the activity will you use the thinking routine?*
4. Come up with a set of **questions** that will prompt students' curiosity. *How might you design a lesson where most of the talking points is asking and responding to questions?*
5. Integrate some **sensory** observation into the lesson. *It can be just taste, smell, sight, or more open-ended.*

Helpful Information and Resources:

- Check out the link to the [padlet](#) with some helpful resources.

Building Critical Thinkers

What: *Thinking Routines are teaching strategies that help students think critically about a topic. They provide frameworks for engagement.*

Think, Pair, Share

- Think. Give students an interesting broad question to think or write about briefly.
- Pair. Pair students and ask them to discuss the question(s) with their partner.
- Share. Students share their discussion ideas with another pair of students, or the instructor leads a whole group discussion about the topic.

See, Think, Wonder

- *Choose and present an image.*
- *Invite students to observe what they see. ...*
- *Invite students to "look closer."*
- *Create a list of observations and invite students to make inferences about what they see. ...*
- *Ask the students what their questions are.*

The Three Y's

- Why might this [topic, question] matter to me?
- Why might it matter to people around me [family, friends, city, nation]?
- Why might it matter to the world?

Encouraging Questions

What: encouraging students to ask —and try to answer—questions. Support students to be inquisitive—it offers students opportunities to integrate their own knowledge. Different types of questions will elicit different responses.

Helpful tips:

- Encouraging the “why”
- Open-ended questions.
- Create dialogue with your students.

Start with a sentence structure, such as...

- What would happen if ...
- What would it be like to ...
- Why did ...
- How do we know that ...
- What did you think when...

Make Space for Sensory Observations

What: We learn through our senses. They provide us with different ways to learn and gain knowledge. Sensory learning encourages students to consider other ways to understand what they are learning.

It is helpful to...

- Do a sensory activity that engages all senses.
- Focus on one sense and explore that sense.
- Encourage students to use descriptive words. If you google “sensory language” or “sensory vocabulary” lots of banks of words, come up that can be helpful.

