

Connect ~~four~~ for... Deeper Learning

Time: 10-15 minutes	Subjects: All	Grades: All	Blooms: Analyzing
<p>This is what it sounds like when your students create a Connect for... in your classroom.</p> <p>“We put the 6 principals of IDEA in a straight line. Because we felt that Zero Reject happens first because if students are rejected, nothing else happens. Then, we put FAPE because once they are in the schools they should be getting a Free and Appropriate Public Education that is designed to meet their need....”</p>			

*Recipe created by Linnea J. Lyding, Ed.D.

Materials: **Steps:**

Note cards
or sticky
notes with
vocabulary
words or
concepts
written on
them.

1. Have students get into groups of 2-4. (I like to randomly assign the groups using playing cards.) Give each group a stack of notecards.
2. Post a list of the vocabulary words or concepts you are covering. Have the students write one word or concept on each notecard.
3. Then, set a timer and give your students 3 minutes to organize the words in a way that makes sense to them. There is not a right or wrong answer for this. Make sure everyone in the group agrees with and understands the organization. You can increase the time if you need to, but the short time usually helps them get to work quickly and it doesn't give them much time to veer off on other subjects.
4. Have the students recreate their way of organizing the words in the front of the class.
5. Each person in the group needs to be able to describe the connection because you will choose a student at random to explain the way they connected the words/concepts. (By randomly calling on students and changing the criteria each time, all of the students stay involved. Here of some of the ways I select students – who got up the earliest? Stayed up the latest? Has the next birthday? Second letter of their middle name is closer to the beginning of the alphabet?)

Online adjustment: [Padlet](#) is a free app that allows groups of students to post information and draw connections. Students can also use a Google Doc and they could record their screen to explain their rationale.

Don't Panic: If you don't have an even number of students, just create a couple of smaller or one bigger group. You can also create groups of 3 if that number works better for you.

Value/Research: You will love the depth of knowledge that students demonstrate with Connect For...Deeper Learning. This demonstration allows you to formatively assess the students' progress towards mastery:

- This type of retrieval practice “builds interconnected networks of knowledge that bolster and support mastery...[and] it also multiplies the cues for retrieving the knowledge, increasing the versatility with which you can later apply it” (Brown, Roediger, & McDaniel, 2014, p. 83).

References:

Brown, P. C., Roediger, H. L., & McDaniel, M. A. (2014) Make it stick: The science of successful learning. Cambridge, The Belknap Press of Harvard University Press