

Larry Bell 12 Powerful Words

Introductory Lesson

The lesson below is an activity used to introduce the 12 Powerful Words to students. It was taken from <http://www.proteacher.net/discussions/showthread.php?t=207471>. The person who posted it said that all classes do this activity on the first day of school.

Supplies:

- 8 laminated sets (depending on class size) of cards of the words and meanings
- 1 laminated set for the teacher-make these larger and I put magnet strips on the back so they stick to white board
- Paper and pencil for each group

Activity:

1. Divide students into 8 small groups and give each group some paper and something to write with.
2. Review what a verb is with the class
3. Ask students to brainstorm a list with their group of what they think are 12 powerful verbs - refer them to think about tests they have taken and questions asked in text books, etc.
4. Have students share their lists with the class. When a powerful verb is named post the magnetic word on the board.
5. Give students the card sets of words and meanings and let each group try and match the meanings with the verbs. Harder than you think.
6. Have students share their matches with the class. When a correct meaning is matched, post the definition on the board and let students move their cards around as needed. This activity really gets the kids talking about why these words are important and how the words affect what the question is asking.
7. Post the words and meanings on a bulletin board and refer to them and use them on tests all year. When we get to testing time kids are not thrown by these terms.

If time:

1. Have students create examples for each of the words.
2. Assign each group 1 or 2 words to make a poster for. The poster should have the word, the definition, an example, and a picture.
3. Have students create questions (test questions) using the words.

In the future:

1. Start each class by having students quickly define the 12 words out loud as a class. Students should be doing this at least once a week, the more the better.
2. Go around the room and have students use the word of the day in a sentence.
3. Include the 12 Powerful Words on quizzes and tests. Put the definition in parentheses so students will know what the words are and get used to seeing them.