**Whiteboarding Activities**

Activities created/found by Graham Johnson & Carolyn Durley

***Mistake Game***

Often we invite students up to the board to explain how they would solve a problem. This is the same, but with a little twist. Students are put into small groups, 3-5ish, who pick a difficult problem to put on their whiteboard. They then work out the solution but intentionally make a mistake. Students are encouraged to make a realistic mistake, one that they may have made themselves or that they know other students might make. Then in front of the class they sell their solution. The goal of the group is to convince the class that their solution in correct, the rest of the class looks for the mistake.

***Ring Around the Whiteboard (Speed Dating)***

The teacher picks 4 difficult multi step questions for students to solve. The questions work best if they vary in the type of learning outcome they address. The whiteboard is divided into four quadrants creating an 'x' going through the middle and touching each corner. A student sits at each of the 4 sides of the board. Each student writes their question near the top of their quadrant. Once all students have written their questions the teacher give students some time to begin solving and thinking through their problem. Give students enough time (~1 min. ish) and then rotate the board. Every minute or so do it again until each person has worked on each problem. At the end give students an opportunity to discuss each solution together as a group to discuss each problem and make changes. Lastly, debrief as a class getting 4 different groups to demonstrate a solution each.

***Monk Boarding***

Communication is important. Likely more important than any Learning Outcome I could ever teach. This is a great activity to work on a 21st century skills. Students use the smaller whiteboards in groups of 2. Teacher poses a question to the class. One partner has the whiteboard marker, the other has the eraser. Only the person with the whiteboard marker can write, and only the person with the eraser can erase. Students solve the problem together in complete silence. Anything else is fair game but no verbal communication is allowed. Amazing to watch when the person with the eraser knows what to do!

***Gallery Walk Review***

Break students into small groups. Each group summarizes a lesson from a given unit. They write down all the important information, diagrams, tips, tough questions, etc. Give students enough time so they are happy with their whiteboard. Then rotate the groups through and give them the opportunity to read, make changes, and add information to the board. This is a great way of reviewing concepts and getting the collective knowledge of the group. I like also leaving these up during tests…students always think I forget about them! ☺

***Telling Stories***

This is an activity great for vocabulary. Provide students with a vocabulary list that they have to include in a story. The story can be as crazy and bizarre as students want but it must incorporate in the vocabulary words in a meaningful way. Some students like to make their story with pictures instead of words and present it to the class in that way.

***Graphing Wars***

Using the small whiteboards students work as quickly as possible to graph various equations presented by the teacher. Students can immediately raise their board when they have the right answer or the teacher can instruct students to do it after all the students are finished. Great activity that has accountability built in. This activity is also a quick way to do a number of graphs in a short amount of time.