

WITsi Newsletter

Queens High Schools Adopt WITsi Strategies

Writing is Thinking with Strategic Inquiry what is it?

1. A set of strategies to teach basic writing skills that many high schools students lack.
2. A way to teach these strategies in content.
3. A methodical way to look at the effectiveness of the strategies by implementing a cohesive inquiry process to look at student work.

Who is using it?

1. Teams of teachers from fourteen NYC high schools
Mostly ninth grade teams

How do I learn the strategies? Reach out to your school leads!

Leads from Queens:

Richmond Hill—Daniel Garretson

August Martin—Tiffany Michael & Jinny Calub

LIC—Julia Bingay-Lopez, Ronny Rodriguez, Vronski Mesidor & Leonore Smith

Dear WITsi

Dear WITsi: Can I use this to assess content?

Absolutely! These strategies work great as exit tickets.

Dear WITsi: How do I teach because, but, so for the first time?

Most important things to remember when first teaching the strategy:

1. Students don't always know how to use the conjunctions so you will need to teach the definitions with examples.
2. Modeling!!!! The strategy must be modeled several times for students to understand clearly what the expectations are.

Dear WITsi: Do I have to be a ninth grade teacher to use WITsi?

No way! These strategies can be used with all students!

The Sentence Strategies

Here is a list of sentence level strategies:

1. Sentence fragments—identifying and repairing.
2. Sentence types—statements, questions, commands and exclamations.
3. Sentence combining using conjunctions.
4. Building more complex sentences—using because, but and so & using sentence expansions with who/what/when/how/why.

Resources available at: [Google drive folder](#)

Please send us your questions and comments!!! Email us at eshalio@schools.nyc.gov

Richmond Hill

August Martin

Long Island City

Flushing



Volume 1, Issue 1, 1/2015 1/200



Newsletter Spotlight

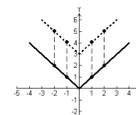
Rectangles are parallelograms because _____

Rectangles are parallelograms but _____

Rectangles are parallelograms so _____

Mr. Jacquet Flushing HS

It shifts.



What _____

How _____

Why _____

Ms. Bingay-Lopez LIC

Please send your activities to eshalio@schools.nyc.gov so we can share them next month!