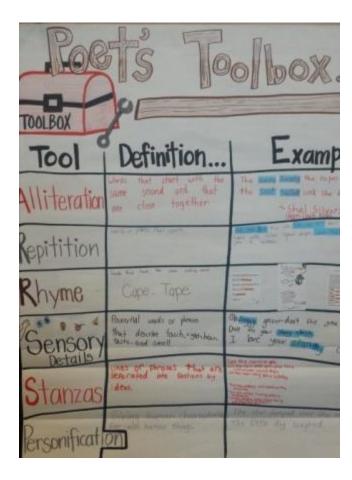# Anchor Charts
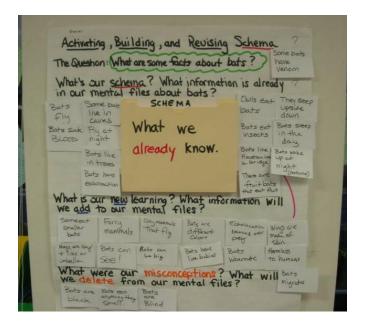
Definition of Anchor Charts

Anchor Charts :: a posted visible support for just-in-time learning that includes only the essential information about strategies, procedures, and concepts that students can access at any time

Anchor Charts

Guided Practice

Purpose of Anchor Charts

As part of a literacy-rich environment, anchor charts cue students about prior learning, supporting students in remembering specific strategies, procedures and concepts.

When to Use Anchor Charts

Teachers and students create anchor charts at the onset of new learning and revisit them throughout the lesson and into independent practice.

How to Use Anchor Charts

- Teacher's Role:
    - Identify focus and purpose of anchor chart (strategy, procedure, concept)
    - Engage all students in shared creation
    - Include only the essential information (not a narrative)
    - Organize information so it is neat and easy to follow and reinforces purpose
    - Use simple icons and graphs to enhance usefulness
    - Place anchor chart in strategic locations where students can visually access it easily

Anchor Charts

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- ■ Refer students to anchor chart frequently
- ■ Create a literacy-rich, collaborative environment
- ● Students' Role:
    - ■ Participate in the creation
    - ■ Use anchor chart to gain clarity
    - ■ Refer to anchor chart as a tool to become more independent
    - ■ Build self-efficacy

How to Launch Anchor Charts

- ● Discuss the purpose of the anchor chart, so students understand why and how they are being used
- ● Create a routine for co-constructing the anchor chart, so students know what is expected of them

Checklist for Anchor Charts

- ❏ What is the focus and purpose of anchor chart (strategy, procedure, concept)?
- ❏ How will I engage all students in shared creation of the anchor chart?
- ❏ What is the essential information that needs to be included?
- ❏ How will I organize the information so it is neat and easy to follow and reinforces purpose?
- ❏ What simple icons and graphs will enhance the usefulness of the anchor chart?
- ❏ Where can I place the anchor chart, so students can visually access it easily?
- ❏ When will I refer students to the anchor chart?
- ❏ How will the anchor chart support a literacy-rich, collaborative environment?

Materials for Anchor Charts

- ● Resources for deciding when an anchor chart should be made
    - ○ Vertical Articulation Guides
    - ○ Social Emotional Learning Standards (SELS)
    - ○ Student data: observation logs, benchmarking data, writing responses, etc

- ● Resources for making and posting the anchor chart
    - ○ Chart paper or large construction paper
    - ○ Markers, crayons
    - ○ Intentional space in room to hang charts

Classroom Videos of Anchor Charts

- ● Elementary Classroom Video: "Math Tools in Action: Anchor Charts"
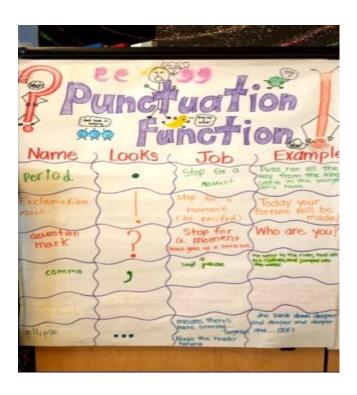- ● Secondary Classroom Video: "The Big Brain: A Cooperative Learning Protocol"
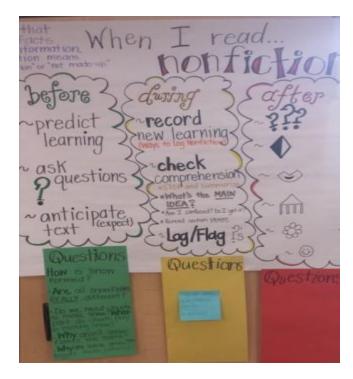
Anchor Charts

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Resources to Extend Learning about Anchor Charts

Vlach, S., & Versi, J. (2010). Narratives of the Struggling Reader. The Reading Teacher, 522-525.
https://drive.google.com/a/madison.k12.wi.us/file/d/0B3QxPy3d_TFTaHNGajJQUTd3S3M/vie

Research for Anchor Charts

Newman, L. (2010, October 1). Retrieved May 28, 2015, from
https://www.engageny.org/sites/default/files/resource/attachments/anchor_charts.pdf

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