

RAFT IDEAS

Topics: Vocabulary, Grammar, Organization, Writing Process, Critical Thinking

Materials List

- ✓ Plastic bottles with lids
- ✓ Content resources (science topic, art object, theme idea)
- ✓ Colored paper scraps
- ✓ Ribbon, stickers, markers, beads, collage items (optional)
- ✓ Glue
- ✓ Scissors
- ✓ Writing paper
- ✓ Pencils or pens

This activity can be used to teach:

CO Reading, Writing and Communicating Standard 3: Writing and Composition

- Planning strategies
- Descriptive and sensory elements

Grades: 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7



2875 Blake Street • Denver, CO 80205

Words in a Bottle

3D Graphic Organizer



Students organize and connect words or phrases related to a specific subject, art object, theme, or feeling. This activity will develop critical thinking skills, ignite creativity, and is an effective prewriting exercise.

To Do and Notice

Words in a Bottle can be used for a variety of purposes such as eliciting prior knowledge, comparing and contrasting, developing descriptive language, discussing sequence, or demonstrating knowledge and understanding of a topic. The completed word bottles can then be used as a tool for organizing content for creative writing, including poetry.

1. Write a word, concept, or theme on the outside of the bottle. Decorate the bottle to match the word or theme if desired.
2. Brainstorm related words or phrases for the concept word by category.
3. Write words or phrases for each category on the same color or shape of paper and place them in the bottle.

Begin with a concept or theme like the Rainforest. Students then brainstorm related words that fall into categories such as: plants, animals, biomes, impact of deforestation, colors, smells, feelings. Each category of word should be written on the same color of paper in order to visually demonstrate the relationship. Questioning students about the concept can be a useful method to help generate additional words. What do you notice about this picture? What kinds of animals live here? What words describe the changes to the rainforest when the trees are removed?

The Content Behind the Activity

Graphic organizers are excellent tools for helping students connect ideas and see relationships between different pieces of information. Similar to a semantic map, 3D organizers provide a visual strategy for displaying relationships to a concept. There are many ways that word associations can be made: class, groups, properties, descriptions, and examples. If the graphic organizer is to be used as a prewriting activity, the categories may be provided to the student as a way to focus the writing.

Assessment

Observe whether students effectively categorize words related to the concept. Do they include nouns as well as descriptive adjectives and adverbs? Do students use the word bottles as a planning strategy to produce writing?

Taking it Further

1. Create two bottles in order to compare and contrast two topics.
2. Label each word with the part of speech and then use in a mad lib.
3. Create an outline with the words by topic, subtopic, and details.