



C. L. A. S. S.

Connecting Learning Assures Successful Students

Upcoming Events

**2008
Summer
Institute**

June 24-27

Indianapolis, Indiana

For more information:

502-648-1881

www.classworksforme.com

E-TOOLS

May 2008



Upcoming Events

**C.L.A.S.S.
2-day
Workshop
in Iowa**

May 29-30

Bettendorf, IA

For Information:

317-572-1576

CLASS@joyofclass.org

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools!

Welcome to C.L.A.S.S. E-Tools for May. It is hard to believe that another school year is almost over. The end of the year provides an opportunity to tie up all the loose ends and reflect on all that we've learned. However, reflection isn't something that happens only at the end of the year. It might be that you reflect at the end of each major unit or theme. It might be that you take time in the middle of a project to reflect and determine if you are on the right path. Reflection helps us take time to process and in turn determine what we can do better the next time.

In this edition of E-Tools we're providing some ideas and suggestions for ways that your students (and yourself) can take time to reflect. Use these ideas now for the end of the year and save them to use throughout next school year. Have a Happy Summer and E-Tools will return again in the Fall!

Agenda: May Issue

- Reflection
- Next Issue: Fall 2008



Reflection: Lifelines

- Have each student choose one Lifeline that they feel they have done a good job exhibiting during this year.
- Create an acrostic poem. Little ones might brainstorm words for each letter and older students might opt to write complete sentences for each letter.
- The poem might highlight how the student used that Lifeline this year.

K

knowlegable

I

in finding

N

needs and performing good

D

needs in the library.

Reflection: Post Card Bulletin Board

- Ask students to write a memory, an event, or something they remember from this year on a postcard. Ask students to draw a picture on the back to give a visual memory of the year or use a digital picture image. Tell them that this memory will be one that you will share with next year's class.
- Hang up the postcards on a bulletin board and leave them up when you leave for the year (this will be one less board to do in the fall).
- When your new class arrives in the fall, ask them to predict what they might be doing this year. Then the new students can read the post cards of last years students to see if any of their predictions might come true.

Reflection: Timeline

- Start a timeline with your students at the beginning of the year. Post “memorable” or “milestones” throughout the year on the timeline.
- At the end of the year, have students make their own personal timeline pulling out some of the events from the class timeline. Ask students to share or write about why they picked those events as important to them.

Reflection: Video Rewind

- Using a video camera, assign students to interview each other about the highlights of the year. Questions might include:
 - What was your favorite project we did this year?
 - What topic did you enjoy learning about this year?
 - What part of the day was your favorite?
 - What book did you enjoy reading the most this year?
 - What will you miss most about this class?
 - What subject do you hope to work harder on next year?
 - What was the best thing you learned how to do this year?
- Play the video back for students on the last day of school.

Reflection: Library Thing

- Library Thing <www.librarything.com> is an online website that you can use to keep track of all the books you have read. Set-up an account for your class and as you read books and novels in your room, enter them in the list.
- Periodically review the list with students. Ask them to talk about their favorites and why. Does the students answers change as the year progresses? Why? Great conversations to have with your students about books and a great way to track all of your reading.

Reflection: ABC of it All!

- Use the ABC of it All Chart to record a word, a phrase, or an image about the year.

THE ABC's OF IT ALL

A	B	C	D	E	F
G	H	Topic		I	J
K	L			M	N
O	P	Q	R	S	T
U	V	W	X	Y	Z

Reflection: Writing

I wish I had known...

Next year I'm going to...

- Ask students to respond to the writing prompt “I wish I had known...” They can share something they wish they had learned before the year started and provide advice for next year’s class. These will be tips and tricks to share with next year’s class. These will make great community circle topics or welcome messages as you build community at the start of the year.
- Ask students to respond to the writing prompt “Next year I’m going to...” As we take time to think about the past year, we also should be thinking about how we’re going to be even better next year (Because As Good As We Are, We Can Always Get Better!). Keep these notes and then take time to see each child you had last year one at a time and share with them a reminder of what they hoped to do this year. It is a great way for them to see that their former teachers still care. For those students who move, send a letter or note with their writing prompt to their new school.

Reflection: Can We Talk?

- Set-up your own talk show stage. Ask a student (or the teacher) to be the host and the students are the “stars” being interviewed. All the questions could be a way for them to think back on the unit or theme. Rotate the “stars” so that all of the students get a chance to participate. It might be that you play for a few minutes each day instead of one long game.
- Before the “show” begins, have the students work individually or in their learning clubs to write the questions that should be ask. Talk about asking good questions and have them think back on the unit or theme.

Reflection: Professional Development

- Just as we ask students to reflect on projects and the year, it is important for us as professionals to do the same. Here are some ideas for reflection for teachers:
 - Keep a diary.
 - Write an article for a professional journal.
 - Present about a project at a conference.
 - Take time to make notes on your year-long plan so it can be updated for the next school year.
 - Create a “happy folder” and put notes and cards from students and staff in the folder each year. Take time to go back through it at the end of the year to remember all the wonderful moments.
 - Attend a conference or workshop. Some of our best ideas come when we listen to others share and figure out how those ideas will fit in with what we do in our own classrooms.