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Tech-Talk

Dixon-Style

Stowers' Technology Newsletter

Created by
SAD, ET



ClassTool #9

Jigsaw Diagram

The Jigsaw template is designed to allow students to make connections between various factors in an engaging manner.

The "pieces" of the jigsaw can have text written into them. When they are dragged next to each other, they "snap" into place.

The pieces can be color coded as appropriate.

Sample Lesson Plan:

This template works particularly well as a consolidation exercise. In the sample template above, students are provided with a range of factors which help to explain why the Industrial Revolution occurred in the United Kingdom.

Their job is to spot connections between the factors, and piece together the jigsaw in a way that makes sense to them. They can edit each piece with words like "so..." and "because..." to clarify their logic. In addition, they can color-code each piece of the jigsaw as an extension activity (e.g. blue=political, red=social, green=economic and so on).

Other Idea:

A more ambitious technique would be to get the students to come up with their own factors. They could then come up to the front of the class and add their factor into a "piece" by typing it in. Once all the ideas have been exhausted, the template could be saved to the network, then each student opens it up and pieces it together as they deem appropriate.

Samples:

<http://classtools.net/my/jigsaw40528.htm>

<http://classtools.net/my/jigsaw11696.htm>

Website:

http://classtools.net/main_area/template_loader.php?jigsaw

ClassTool #10

Priority Chart

The Priority Chart Template allows students to brainstorm factors which help to answer a key question, and then these can be dragged and dropped into an order of priority and color coded as required

Sample Lesson Plan:

Provide students with a key question.

Give them a few minutes to come up with a list of factors to help answer the question.

These are then added to the diagram (up to 8 factors can be added).

EITHER: This template is saved to the network, and each student opens it up and drags the factors into an order of priority

OR: The teacher leads a discussion / debate in which students are invited to come up to the interactive whiteboard and drag a factor into a position of priority and justify their choice to the class.





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Finally, once a consensus has been reached, each student should write up the class verdict and explain the choice they made in as much detail as possible.

Other Ideas:

The teacher could provide some or all of the key factors in advance of the lesson to save time.

Website:

http://classtools.net/main_area/template_loader.php?priority_chart

ClassTool #11

Hamburger

A burger diagram is a simple essay planning tool. Students make basic notes covering their introduction, three main sections, and a conclusion.

It is a useful way of ensuring that students think about structuring their essays in a logical format.

Sample Lesson Plan:

This is really a very straightforward template, which would be ideal as a homework / extension activity prior to a written essay test in examination conditions. Students could be asked to produce and print off a burger diagram for the key question under consideration, which they could then use for reference purposes during the test.

Other Ideas:

Each student could save their completed template to the school network so that they can be compared and contrasted. Which burgers are the most similar? Which one is the most original? Which one appears to have broken the topic down most appropriately?

Samples:

http://classtools.net/my/burger8797who_caus_ed_the_english_civil_war_.htm

http://classtools.net/my/burger94231what_makes_beowulf_a_hero_.htm

Website:

http://classtools.net/main_area/template_loader.php?burger

Web 2.0 #9

Muxical

Create original music on the piano, the drums or stringed instruments! Listen to others play! Wonder who it is?

Website:

<http://www.muxical.com/>

--until next week