

Word Splash

Word Splash is a learning tool that stimulates thinking around a topic. It can be used as a priming activity or a wrap up activity. A word splash is a collection of words around a topic where the words related to the topic are arranged on a page in a variety of directions. As a warm up activity prior to the central learning for the day, teachers look at the assembled words and discuss how they think the words relate to the day's topic. As a wrap up activity, teachers brainstorm words related to the day's learning and share and collect words from a partner to be entered into a word splash of their own.

Adult Learning Stage: Pre-learning or post-learning activity

Goal(s):

Set the adult learner's mind to the day's topic.

Stimulate group discussion.

Summarize key points from the day's learning.

Prep: For pre-learning activity, facilitator must create a word splash page to be given to staff as a handout or viewed on an overhead or through a projector.

Facilitator reviews reading material(s) and selects a half dozen or so words from the reading material. Facilitator inputs these words into a word splash creator like www.wordle.net/create or makes one on a page of paper.

Directions (pre-learning):

1. Inform the staff that they will be working with a partner to look at a collection of words that deal with the day's topic (Common Core State Standards, ELA Appendix A, or other document) and will be used to stimulate discussion prior to engaging in the core learning activity.
2. Teachers will need a paper and pen to record the essence of their discussion.
3. With their partner, teachers review the words and discuss how they might fit with today's topics. There are no right or wrong answers.
4. (Optional) The pair will connect with another pair and share their connections to the words and the day's topic.

Directions (post-learning):

1. Have teachers skim document they just worked with for a few important words.
2. Pairs of teachers share their words and why they chose them.
3. Teachers take their words and enter them into www.wordle.net/create, and are to bring their printed document with them to the next professional learning session to be used as a warm up activity to stimulate their minds toward the day's learning.
4. At the next learning session, teachers will review their word splashes and recall meanings with a different partner than the one they collaborated with at the last work session.

Listening 3-Part Model
Foundational Skills
Text-Complexity
Vocabulary
Measuring
Implementing
Speaking
Language
Writing