EXIT SLIPS

Explanation

Exit slips are written student responses to questions teachers pose at the end of a class or lesson. These quick, informal assessments enable you to quickly assess your students' understanding of the material.

The Exit-Slip strategy requires students to write responses to questions you pose at the end of class.

There are three categories of exit slips (Fisher & Frey, 2004):

- Prompts that document learning,
    - Ex. Write one thing you learned today.
    - Ex. Discuss how today's lesson could be used in the real world.
- Prompts that emphasize the process of learning,
    - Ex. I didn't understand…
    - Ex. Write one question you have about today's lesson.
- Prompts to evaluate the effectiveness of instruction
    - Ex. Did you enjoy working in small groups today?

Other exit prompts include:

- I would like to learn more about…
- Please explain more about…
- The most important thing I learned today is…
- The thing that surprised me the most today was…
- I wish…

Benefits

Exit Slips help students reflect on what they have learned and express what or how they are thinking about the new information.

- They take just a few minutes.
- They provide teachers with an informal measure of how well students have understood a topic or lesson.
- They help students reflect on what they have learned.
- They allow students to express what or how they are thinking about new information.
- They easily incorporate writing into your content area classroom and require students to think critically.

How to use Exit Slips in the English Classroom

- At the end of your lesson or five minutes before the end of class, ask students to respond to a prompt you pose to the class.
- You may state the prompt orally to your students or project it visually on an overhead or blackboard.
- You may want to distribute 3X5 cards for students to write their responses on or allow students to write on loose-leaf paper.
- As students leave your room they should turn in their exit slips.
- Review the exit slips to determine how you may need to alter your instruction to better meet the needs of all your students.
- Collect the exit slips as a part of an assessment portfolio for each student.

In Practice

The Start of an Essay

The low-stakes nature and end-of-class urgency of the exit slips creates a space for students to write quickly, jotting down all that they know about something. You could ask, for example, "Tell me all that you believe to be (a character's) motivation for _____ in the book_____." Students write and write for several minutes. You can hand it back to them the next day, telling them they have a start to their first draft of a character analysis essay.

Surveying Students

Use the exit slip to survey students on a current issue or hot button topic related to them (i.e. mobile phone use at school). The data can be used to launch a lesson on the art of debate, or start a unit on argumentative writing ("75% of the class agrees that...").

Exit slip examples

- Write one thing you learned today
- Write one question you have about today's lesson
- Write three words with the long "o" sound
- Name one positive and one negative thing that happened during group work today
- Write a quick summary about . . .
- Select a quote from your reading that you feel is worthy of some discussion and briefly tell why.
- The thing that surprised me today . . .
- I wish . . .
- I had an idea I didn't get a chance to share. Here it is!
- I'd like to do more of . . .
- I need help with . . .

Differentiation

- Have a variety of exit slips and differentiate which students get which ones
- Allow students to work on their exit slips in pairs or small groups
- Allow students to verbally express the information

Sources / Useful Websites

www.adlit.org

www.readwritethink.org

www.readingrockets.org

www.jcspliteracy.ie

www.nbss.ie

Exit Slips

Write one thing you learned today.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Rate your understanding of today's topic on a scale of 1-10. What can you do to improve your understanding?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Discuss one way today's English lesson could be used in the real world.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Describe one topic that we covered today that you would like to learn more about.

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

One thing I didn't understand:

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

Of the two strategies we learned today, which one did you find most useful? Why?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____

COMPREHENSION STRATEGY (POST READING)

What stuck with you today?

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

_____

Name _____