



Strategy Focus: Challenge

Strategy Name: Six degrees of separation

Where it's from: Zoe Elder's Full on Learning Book

1. Select a topic area within your subject/theme
2. Write numbers 1 – 6 down a page
3. Place your topic at no. 6
4. Get from the stimulus (Clip/picture/word/number) to your chosen topic in NO MORE AND NO FEWER THAN 6 STEPS
5. Focus on the explanation of how each of these steps is taken
6. Add more degrees or steps to increase the challenge or develop the exercise into a collaborative thinking activity
7. Add deliberate milestones that you ask learners to get to along their journey
8. Close down the activity by selecting a destination FOR learners if you want them to focus in on a particular theme or topic

What the strength of this strategy is it's flexibility. For example, you can change the number of steps to 7 or 12. Or, you could specify a mid-point (that step 3 is the death of Queen Elizabeth I or sunlight, for example). The activity is designed so that students have to deliberately practise creative thinking, making links and connections between concepts. It works well as a revision activity as well as a starter or collaborative thinking task. To really stretch and challenge your students, why not get them to invent their own?

For more info: www.fullonlearning.com