

20 PRACTICAL STRATEGIES FOR EVERYDAY ENGAGEMENT:

BELIEVE

- **Pose a Moral Dilemma:** Present a difficult scenario for students to write or discuss as an entry point into a lesson on a similar topic.
- **Would you rather . . .?:** Present two options to respond to a difficult real life situation. Ask students to write or discuss which option they would choose and why.
- **Better or Worse?:** Ask students to choose which of two options is the best response to a problem. Explain why in writing or discussion.
- **Instant Debate:** Pose a controversial issue and ask students to choose one side of the issue. Give 5 minutes to prepare for an *Instant Debate*.

THINK

- **Challenge Problem:** Post a CHALLENGE problem or puzzle for students to work together to solve. Give prizes/points for the winner.
- **Juxtapositions:** Ask students to find the similarities between to seemingly different ideas. In writing or discussions, students share their answers.
- **Quote-ables:** Pulling from student writing or discussions, identify meaningful quotes from students and post them around the room; highlight the insight the student brought to the discussion.
- **Picture Says 1,000 Words:** Present an image, photo or picture. Ask students to make connections to your lesson topic in writing or discussion.

FEEL

- **Call Them Maybe:** or email students individually to give praise for something they've said or done in class, or just to check in on how they're doing.
- **Temperature Reading:** Open the class period asking students to write or share their about how they're feeling. Thumbs up/down; or a Scale of 1-5, helps students share their emotional state without getting into the details.
- **Writing for Full Presence:** Open ended, private writing for 3 minutes at the beginning of class helps students let go of outside distractions.
- **Gratitudes:** Say Thank You by name to all students on task until everyone is participating.

DO

- **Scavenger Hunt:** Place clues to solve a problem or puzzle around the classroom. Ask students to work in groups to locate the clues and solve the problem.
- **Silent Discussion:** Students respond to a problem, reading, or question by writing notes on post-its, or poster papers. Students respond to each other silently.
- **Get Centered:** Create student choice by organizing 2-3 different activities around a text/problem (vocab, drawing, summarizing, organizing facts/steps); allow students to choose which center they want to focus on.
- **4 Corners:** Use the 4 corners of the room to bring students together based on their answers to a multiple choice question. In groups, students find evidence to support their response.

