Clues Chaining

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Using sentence strips is a powerful tool to make a seemingly boring topic more exciting. This system can be used in language arts, history, math or any content area.

Often students have become acquainted with information that is SEQUENTIAL.
- In History: it could be arranging the succession of the battles of the Civil War.
- In Math: it could be establishing the logical sequence of an algebraic proof.
- In Science: it could be determining the steps in performing an experiment.
- In Reading: it could be recalling the order of events in a story.

With the sentence strips, the instructor eliminates the tedious lecture format and encourages students to draw their own conclusions.

Preparation:
1. Choose the topic that the students will cover. In language arts, students might want to pick a favorite introductory paragraph they have written. Be sure that there are at least 5 to 10 sentences for the students to manipulate. Type each sentence separately. Skip a few lines between each sentence. If you are teaching about stages, type each stage with a description next to it.
2. Make copies of the list onto paper; one for each learning group.
3. Cut out each section. Recut each edge so that students will be unable to place them together by the way the paper has been cut.

Activity:
In learning groups, have the students figure out the proper order of the strips.
If you are teaching sequential order in language arts, you might have pairs within each group exchange story strips.

Discussion:
1. Have the whole group discuss the different stages. Use a “Name Card” to determine which group will speak. Ask the group to state what their first strip is. Discuss it and ask how many groups agree. Eventually, let them know the correct answer.
2. Give all the learning groups time to reconsider their lists. Let them rearrange their strips if they want to. Pick another “Name Card” again to determine the next group to start the discussion about the next strip.
3. The students’ list is a template outline of your lecture to organize your students’ notes.
4. Later CLUES can be again used as guided practice, review, and as a formal test.