

Mess About - Experiential Strategy

Source: Marschall, Carla, & French, R. (2018). *Concept-based Inquiry in Action: Strategies to Promote Transferable Understanding*. Thousand Oaks: Corwin.

What is this strategy?	★ Students interact, explore and engage with various materials relating to the concept(s) within the learning outcome. ★ The materials selected are intended to spark student curiosity and inquiry. ★ Students connect their prior knowledge, make observations and start wondering about what questions they have about the materials and concept(s) being explored.
How do I implement this strategy?	1. Collect materials relating to the concept(s) within the learning outcome 2. Use an open question or questions to frame student exploration of the selected materials so they have a context for connecting their prior knowledge, observations, wonderings and current thinking. ○ Eg: <i>What do you notice about these materials?</i> ○ Eg: <i>What can we learn from them about _____?"</i> 3. Set students up with a way to record their observations, wonderings and current thinking during their exploration. ○ Does not need to be a written exploration record and can even be time set aside to pause their exploration to collect and share their initial thinking. 4. As students explore, collect formative information about their prior knowledge and possible misconceptions. ○ Eg: An anecdotal checklist could be used, video and/or photo evidence could be captured 5. Pause the exploration to allow for students to share their observations, wonderings and current thinking with their peers. ★ Eg: Could collect their thoughts on chart paper 6. Resume exploration, giving students another chance to build upon their initial observations and stretch their thinking. Some students might be inclined to test out what their peers have shared. 7. Collect and record observations and thinking at the end of this exploration. Invite student sharing and questioning to drive investigation and curiosity for the subsequent learning experiences.
What materials do I need?	★ Various materials relating to the concept(s) within the learning outcome. ○ Eg: If students are exploring geometry, then materials like pattern blocks, geometry tiles and other loose objects relating to forms and shape could be used ○ Eg: If students are exploring mixtures and solutions, then materials like water, flour, sugar, sand, stones could be used.