Literacy Strategy: Show, Don't Tell

ELD "Rainy weather makes us _____" or "Rainy weather has _____"

ELD "I predict car # _____ will roll the farthest because _____"

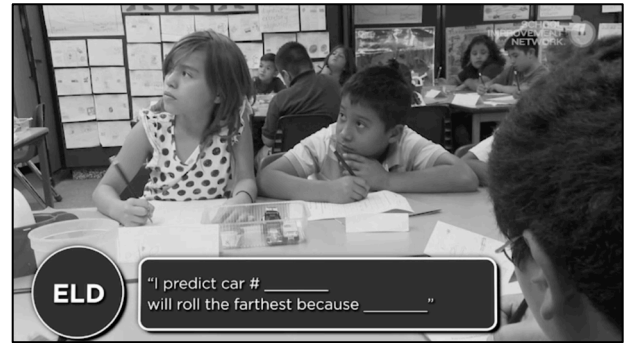## About the English Language Development Series

The English Language Development segments from Agua Caliente Elementary School in Cathedral City, California, feature lessons aligned to a six-stage instructional model outlined below.

About this Segment

"Show, don't tell" is a scaffolding strategy in which students respond to teachers' questions and instructions with non-verbal gestures. It is a quick way to support student declarative knowledge and engagement and is also used as a formative assessment strategy in which students with emerging literacy skills can indicate their understanding of content without the cognitive load of linguistic production.

Pre-Viewing Discussion Prompt

What strategies have you used to formatively assess student growth toward mastery?

Reflection Questions

1. How do the teachers in this segment effectively use "show, don't tell" in their classrooms? How else could you use this strategy in your instruction?

2. What challenges might you encounter in implementing this strategy in your own classroom?

3. What other non-linguistic strategies could you use to support your students academically?

Agua Caliente Six-Stage Lesson Sequence

- **Introduction**: The warm-up or anticipatory set. Teachers help activate students' prior knowledge and prepare them for new learning.

- **Input:** The teacher-led direct instruction.

- **Focus:** A quick check for understanding. Can be in the form of thumbs-up/down or fist-to-five questioning.

- **Transfer:** Students apply their new learning by working on activities or answering questions independently or in groups.

- **Evaluation:** Students report on their learning through teacher check for understanding, whole-class share-out, or presentations.

- **Extension:** Students take part in engaging, often hands-on activities that provide additional reinforcement of new knowledge.

ELD Lesson Sequence

- Introduction
- Input
- Focus
- Transfer
- Evaluation
- Extension

Resources from School Improvement Network

English language instruction: Weather conditions. Edivation. https://pd360.com/#resources/videos/8218

Relevant Academic Articles

Institute of Education Sciences (n.d.). English language learners. *What Works Clearinghouse.* Retrieved August 21, 2014, from http://ies.ed.gov/ncee/wwc/Topic.aspx?sid=6

Practical Resources

Spillett, A. J. (n.d.). Strategies for teaching English language learners. Retrieved August 18, 2014, from http://www.scholastic.com/teachers/article/strategies-teaching-english-language-learners

Marzano's Best (n.d.). 6th strategy – Nonlinguistic representation. Retrieved December 5, 2014, from http://marzanosbest.wikispaces.com/6th+Strategy+-+Nonlinguistic+Representation