

Building Verbal Intelligence: Mindsketching Guidelines

Level One

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Purpose: To help students understand the difference between drawing and sketching.
To learn how to capture the image in the mind in a quick and easy way.

[Visual images are key to memory. Sketches are also the basis for verbal sharing with another student.]

Mindsketching works best in the initial stages if each student has his/her own marker board.

1. “Everyone draw a house on your own board. You can draw your house, a house you have seen in your town or an imaginary house.” *NOTE: the teacher should never illustrate sketching—BUT you can illustrate drawing. I usually draw a house on the board that has windows, a door, roof, bushes, cat or dog by the door, etc.*
2. “Turn to your partner. Hold up your drawing of a house. Have your partner tell you two things s/he can tell about your house just by looking at the drawing. Now it is the other person’s turn to show their house.”
3. “What we have just done is called drawing. When we draw we add details so other people can tell what we are thinking. When we add details in our drawings, it is called elaboration. We use drawing to let other people know what we are thinking.”
4. “Now look at your drawing. Pretend no one else is going to see it except you. You will not need all the lines in the drawing. What lines can you erase and still know it is a house? Start erasing the lines you do not need. We call this sketching. Sketching uses very few lines because the only person who will need to know what it is—is you. Show the person next to you what your sketch of a house looks like. Your sketch may look different than someone else’s sketch. Use the lines you will need to know—if you see this paper next week—that it is a house.”
5. “Some times I will ask you to draw because we are going to share our ideas with others in the classroom. Other times I will ask you to sketch because the ideas are just for you.”

Mindsketching becomes the basis for comprehension, writing, math word problems, etc. We will continue to build on this throughout the semester. However, the key element at the beginning is to become comfortable with sketching and understand the difference between drawing and sketching.