

# SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

A variety of simple instructional strategies that incorporate the use of digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

## MYTH BUSTIN'!



## BACKGROUND

MythBusters, a popular show on the Discovery Channel, tests popular myths in order to confirm or bust them. This strategy takes the idea of myth busting and applies it to content students explore through digital media. By providing students with a list of statements to “bust” or “confirm,” we are providing explicit cues about what students are about to learn. These cues help students focus on the important information we want them to walk away with, as well as help trigger what they may already know about the topic.

## EXAMPLE

- \* Explain to students that they will be learning about our [Sense of Taste \(CDN Subscribers\)](#)
- \* Have each student take out a blank piece of paper. On one side they need to write “Confirmed,” on the other side they need to write “Busted.”
- \* Display the following statements. Have students discuss, in pairs, why they think each of the statements are “busted” or “confirmed.”
  - \* Our sense of taste can help save our lives.
  - \* The average adult has 20,000 taste buds.
  - \* Without saliva, we would not be able to taste our food.
  - \* The five types of taste buds on our tongue detect hot, cold, bitter, sweet, and salty.
- \* Play [the video segment \(CDN Subscribers\)](#) for students.
- \* Have students work individually to confirm or bust the myths by stating evidence from the video segment to support their responses.
- \* Review the statements whole group and allow students to vote using their “confirmed” or “busted” paper. Have students share their evidence.
- \* Have students come up with their own statements about the video they can have their peers bust or confirm.

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## CHALLENGE

- \* Select a video segment that matches your current curriculum.
  - \* Preview the video to come up with a list of busted and confirmed statements.
  - \* Show students the statements and have them discuss the statements in pairs.
  - \* Watch the video segment and have students “bust” or “confirm” the statements by stating evidence from the video.
  - \* Allow students to come up with their own statements to stump their peers.
- \* **Pro Tip:** If you have access to Discovery Education’s Science Techbook, be sure to check out the MythBusters episodes! Here is an episode on [Sound Energy: Can a Singer Break Glass\(CDN Subscribers\)](#). Many of these episodes also include student [Peer Review Sheets](#) which allow students to analyze the MythBusters’ use of the scientific method to bust or confirm the myth.



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