

# SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

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

## CONNECT THE DOTS



## BACKGROUND

It's easy to get caught up in the race to ensure that the curriculum is "covered" by the end of the year. This does not guarantee that the material is learned, however. In order for new information to make its way into long-term memory, students must be able to answer 2 important questions: "Does this make sense?" and "Does this have meaning?" According to Sousa and Tomlinson, "...of the two criteria, meaning has the greater impact on the probability that information will be stored." (*Differentiation and the Brain*, pg. 50) Using this strategy, students will develop a concept map that "connects the dots" between what they are learning and how it's relevant to their lives.

## EXAMPLE

- \* Explain to students that they will be learning about Sources of Renewable Energy.
- \* Ask students to take out a piece of paper. Have them draw a dot in the center of their paper and write "Renewable Energy" above the dot.
- \* Have students add a dot somewhere on the top of the page and write their name.
- \* Explain to students that as they watch the video, they must "connect the dots" between what they are learning and how it is relevant to their lives. They may create 4 or 5 dots leading from the topic in the center to their name. Each dot should have information so you can easily see the connections. The information can be written or drawn with images.
- \* Play the video segment [Sources of Renewable Energy \(CDN Subscriber\)](#). You may want to stop several times to give them an opportunity to think about what they just saw/heard and create their dots.
- \* Ask students to share their connections with a partner.
- \* Facilitate a whole group discussion about the video. Ask students to share their personal connections to sources of renewable energy. Ask them why renewable energy is important to their lives.

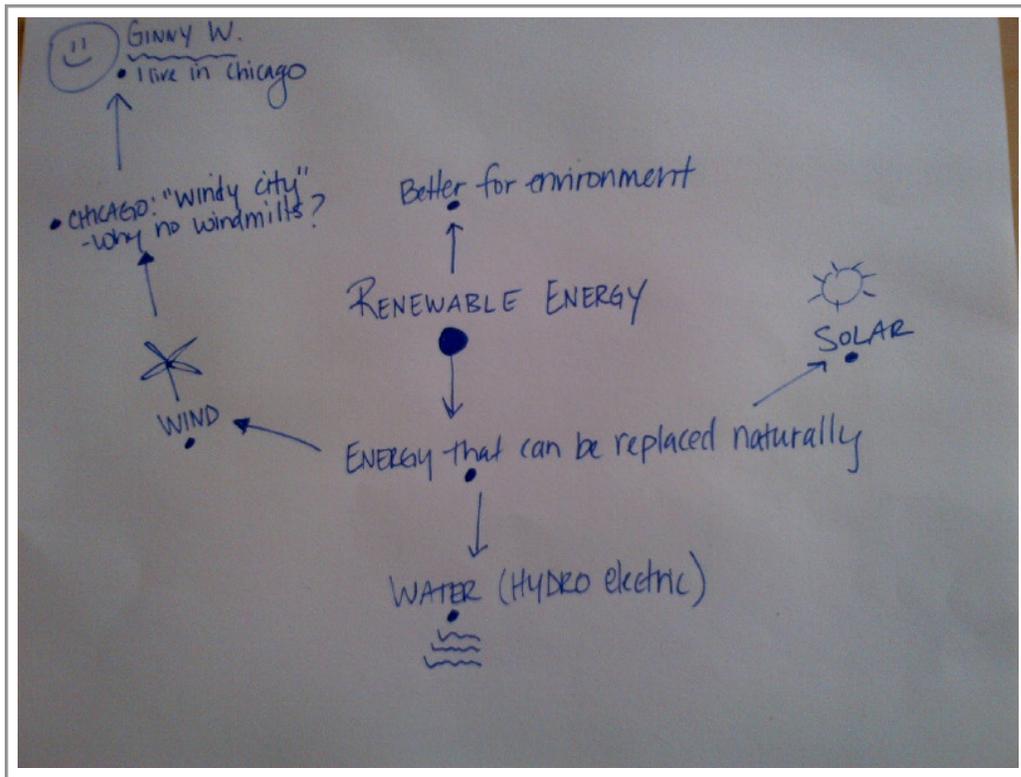
Connect with the Discovery Educator Network  
[Community.DiscoveryEducation.com](https://www.discoveryeducation.com)

For more S.O.S. examples visit:  
[DENblogs.com](https://denblogs.com)

# SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

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

## CONNECT THE DOTS



## CHALLENGE

- \* Select a topic that matches your curriculum.
- \* Find a video segment on Discovery Education (5 minutes or less is recommended) that explains your topic or concept.
- \* Have students take out a piece of paper and draw a dot in the middle. Write the name of the topic above the dot.
- \* Ask students to add a dot at the top of the page with their name next to it.
- \* While students watch the video, they must create a series of dots to connect what they are learning to why it has meaning to them.
- \* Have students share their “connect the dots” page with a peer.
- \* Have a whole group discussion and ask students to share their personal connections with the topic.

Connect with the Discovery Educator Network  
[Community.DiscoveryEducation.com](http://Community.DiscoveryEducation.com)

For more S.O.S. examples visit:  
[DENblogs.com](http://DENblogs.com)