

# SOS SPOTLIGHT ON STRATEGIES

Simple instructional strategies that incorporate digital media in meaningful, effective, and practical ways.

## J.O.Y. (Join...Opportunity...You)



There's an old song that tells us that we've got to "accentuate the positive." The J.O.Y. strategy was introduced at the 2016 Discovery Educator Network Summer Institute as a way for teachers to capitalize on the positive and build opportunities to help students gain critical collaboration and communication skills in a focused and structured manner. This is a strategy that will work with both students and educators and could be used as a team builder with those groups at the beginning of the school year.



Materials: Prepared questions related to content

1. Ask students to gather into groups.
2. Introduce topic of discussion. This could be done with an image, a video segment, a reading passage or any other type of media.
3. Ask students to move around the room and to **JOIN** with a different group of students.
4. Next, ask students to take the **OPPORTUNITY** to discuss the topic with a partner or trio in their new group. Help to focus the discussion with a forward-thinking question about the topic such as: "What are you most curious about?" Or "What ideas are you now thinking about?"
5. After several minutes of discussion, ask students to respond to this question: "What personal connections do **YOU** make to the topic?"
6. After several more minutes, ask student to participate in a full group debrief by asking for volunteers to share out the "JOY" they discovered as a result of their discussion.

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This strategy helps students make connections, have discussions and participate in positive conversations. It is a great strategy to use because it requires very little preparation or materials, provides a scaffolded structure for students to follow and encourages discussion and sharing from all group members.



Have students reflect on their JOYs individually and share them on a sticky note or electronically through a Web 2.0 tool such as Padlet. Use these insights as topics for further investigation, writing prompts, or review.

## Special Thanks:

★ This strategy is courtesy of Lance Rougeux, Director of Digital Learning Communities.