



Thinking Nation

Say it in Six

"Say it in Six" is a highly effective teaching strategy that challenges students to summarize a concept, idea, or story in just six words. This concise format forces them to focus on the most essential information and express it clearly, promoting critical thinking and communication skills. Often referred to as a "six-word summary," this strategy is widely used to help students engage deeply with material.

Here's how it works:

First, present a topic, concept, or image to the students. This could be anything from a historical event to a scientific idea or a complex text. For example, you might choose to discuss the events of September 11, 2001. Provide students with an overview, such as a short video, an image, or a brief explanation, to set the stage.

Second, introduce the idea of a "six-word summary" and provide examples. Explain that the goal is to distill the topic into six critical words that capture its essence. Using the 9/11 example, you could suggest summaries like "Terrorist, hijacking, World Trade Center, devastation" or "Osama Bin Laden, Pentagon, New York City, attack."

Third, give students time to process the topic. Encourage them to think deeply about the most important aspects of the material and choose their six words carefully. This step allows them to reflect and prioritize the key information they've learned.

Fourth, have students share their six-word summaries with the class. This step provides an opportunity for discussion, as students explain why they chose their specific words and how those words reflect the most significant parts of the topic. It also helps them learn from one another's perspectives.

This strategy is particularly valuable because it requires students to distill complex information into its most crucial components, tuning in to what resonates most with them. Thinking Nation integrates the "Say it in Six" strategy throughout its units to help students develop these essential skills while engaging meaningfully with the material.