



# Literacy Connects

*A Content Literacy Newsletter from Regional Professional Development Program-Issue XXVI*



## Brain Games for Review

Teaching with the brain in mind is good practice any time of the year, but as summer approaches and student motivation dwindles, games are an excellent way to review material for upcoming finals while stimulating brain growth and enhancing memory. Promoting healthy competition in your classroom through unique and challenging activities that combine socialization, movement and creativity is a fun and productive way to beat those “end of the year blues.” Following are a few games that can be adapted for review in all subject areas.

**Commercial Breaks:** Each student team or pair is assigned or chooses a review topic. After ten minutes of prep time and rehearsal, they act out a commercial for the material. Give groups thirty seconds to “sell” the “product” of knowledge and help everyone else remember it.

**Jot Thoughts:** Using post-it notes or small pieces of paper, teammates attempt to cover the table with review facts during an allotted amount of time.

- Place students in groups of four; have them move their desks together to form one large table top.
- Name a topic and set a time limit (5 – 10 minutes).
- The first student announces and then writes one fact per slip of paper and places it in the center of the table. Going clock-wise around the group, the next student announces and then writes another fact. This continues around the group until the allotted time expires. Students may NOT repeat facts.
- Once time has been called, teams count the number of post-its they have generated. The group with the highest number of facts wins the game.
- Have the winners read each fact aloud to the class and evaluate for accuracy.
- Extensions/Variations: 1) Have students group or classify their facts according to specified criteria. 2) Rather than writing from memory, students can use their notes.

**What Am I?:** Write key items for review on pieces of paper, one item per page. Give each student or student group a piece of paper and have them either complete or choose from one of the following activities:

- As students enter your classroom, tape a concept to each person’s back. Students wander around the room asking yes or no questions to determine who or what they are.
- Students write a content riddle about the concept. Riddles should be 5 or more lines long, moving from general to more specific clues. Students can share riddles with small groups or whole class.
- On the opposite side of the paper, the student draws a picture(s) to communicate the content. As the student draws, teammates guess the content. The student continues elaborating his drawing until a teammate guesses correctly.
- Students play charades, acting out the concept while the teammates guess.

**I Did It My Way:** Write out the lyrics to a popular song and distribute. Have students rewrite the lyrics using key terms, concepts and/or facts they have learned. Share new songs with class.

Visit the RPDP website ([www.rpdp.net](http://www.rpdp.net)) for a complete selection of *Literacy Connects*.