INTRODUCTION

Academic English is the third language of ELLs (Zwiers & Crawford, 2011).

• The first is the English of the home
• The second is the language of social situations
• The third is the language of academic content areas: ELA, math, science and history

When ELLs enter a history classroom they enter not only a place where knowledge of historical language is of prime importance to understanding a history text, but also enter a world where the people and events they are studying are foreign and are not connected to their country/place of origin.

APPLICATION

All of these strategies can be used all the time

For preteaching:
• Hand out content word wall that students can refer to at any point of their reading and writing

While teaching:
• Graphic organizers
• 2 column notes
• Skeleton notes with word bank
• Content word wall- continuous adding to wall and with
  • Think alouds
  • Cubing
  • Historical conversation prompts

Post teaching
• Return to graphic organizers
• Word wall

PRACTICE

I. Accessing historical documents

• Using think-alouds to access historical documents.
  • Think-alouds teach students how to think like historians when approaching difficult and dense texts
  • The teacher models how to approach a text and to deconstruct it

II Building academic vocabulary

a. Create a content word wall using www.bubbl.us or www.abcya.com display common historical vocabulary and concepts on wall

b. Cubing is a strategy to help students understand historical concepts. You can differentiate cubes according to language levels and readiness to move from concrete ideas to more abstract ideas.

III. Supporting oral development

• Using historical prompts (conversation frames) to frame discussion

IV. Respecting a students’ history

• Introduce the contributions of your students’ ancestors to American history

Relevant Resources

Acknowledgements

http://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/07/04/latinos-contributions-to-us-history-independence_n_3545899.html
(Contributions of Latinos in US history)

http://www.nps.gov/history/heritageinitiatives/latino/latinothemestudy/coreessays.htm
(Contributions of Latinos)

Historical conversation frames:


Thinkalouds:

http://www.readingrockets.org/strategies/think_alouds

Cubing: