SYNTHESIZING LEARNING in remote/online K-12 settings

SUMMARY HANDOUT

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Key options worth considering:

(S=synchronous session or F2F; A=asynchronous online or regular homework)

A. Teacher’s summary at the end of a lesson, while taking notes (S)
B. Teacher’s recap at the beginning of the next lesson (S)
C. Teacher’s posted summary notes (A)
D. “What Have I Learned” class reflection, with teacher taking notes (S)
E. Students’ private reflective journal (A)
F. Students’ synthesis post (publicly shared) (A)

Key tips:

• Make sure you set aside sufficient time in your plan for this critical activity
• Purposefully plan how to create records of the synthesis done, for future reference
• Be explicit about why you are doing it, as students may not appreciate its value
• Prepare students to be able to eventually do this synthesis on their own

Key decisions to be made – in addition to HOW MUCH reading to assign (and related options to consider):

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>WHEN:</th>
<th>WHO does it:</th>
<th>RECORDS created:</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>“In the moment”</td>
<td>Teacher</td>
<td>None</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>End of lesson</td>
<td>Teacher w/ students’ input</td>
<td>Collective notes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Recap at beginning of next lesson</td>
<td>Students w/ teacher’s guidance</td>
<td>Individual</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Individual Student (independently)</td>
<td>Full recording</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Useful online tools:

• Online synch sessions, and related recording features (Zoom; Google Meet; ec.)
• Online repository for notes (any LMs; Padlet)
• Journal/ assignment function (most LMSs)

Reflective questions about specific implementations of this practice:

• What did you do to help your students synthesize what they learned?
• What decisions did you make (and why) about WHEN, WHO, and RECORDS?
• What worked/didn’t work and why?
• What may you want to do differently next time?