MAKING OBSERVATIONS

How can we help students make careful observations while encouraging wonder and curiosity?
It reminds me of...

...something I learned.
...the last time I saw this bird.
...an analogy.
...a metaphor.
...something else I have seen.
...something I read.

...something I saw on TV.
...a feeling.
...something that happened when I was a kid.

By making connections, we build our conceptual frameworks.
① Slow down
② Get down
③ Look around
“A useful definition of love is sustained, compassionate attention.”

- John Muir Laws
“[The kids] loved it and wouldn’t come in for lunch – made teacher cry (a good thing). The kids never saw it coming. [Challenging kids] went from blah to wow in 10 minutes. What would normally take hours was 20 minutes in which we couldn’t get them out of the forest. Best day ever.”

- Field Instructor, with 15 years of experience, after leading first I Notice, I Wonder, It Reminds Me Of
What kinds of instructional choices do we make when encouraging student observations?
What kinds of instructional choices do we have to make when encouraging student observations?

Anthropomorphism

Naming and Identifying
Discussion and Workshop Norms

Listen actively and share ideas
Share and ask for evidence
Keep an open, curious mind
Disagree productively
Work toward a deeper understanding
What kinds of instructional choices do we have to make when encouraging student observations?

**Anthropomorphism**

**Naming and Identifying**

**Instructions**

- Make groups of 3-5
- Read over both topics, and the statements on the ends of each spectrum
- Choose one topic, and begin discussing where you might each fall on the spectrum during different instructional situations, and why
- If you have time, discuss the other topic
- 15 minutes total
Don’t be automatic.

MAKE THOUGHTFUL INSTRUCTIONAL DECISIONS
What do you observe?
Think/Pair

• New(ish) ideas I gleaned from this session are...
• I’m now wondering about...
• Something I’m struggling with is...
• Some ways I can apply these ideas to my own instruction are...
Reflection
How can we help students make careful observations while encouraging wonder and curiosity?

• Newish ideas I gleaned from the session are...
• Something I’m struggling with is...
• I’m now wondering about...
• Ways I can apply these things to my own instruction are...