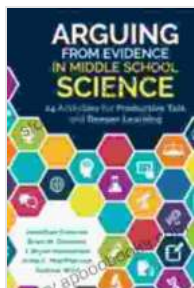


# 24 Activities for Productive Talk and Deeper Learning: Engage Students and Transform Your Classroom



## Arguing From Evidence in Middle School Science: 24 Activities for Productive Talk and Deeper Learning

by Rimma Mykhailovska

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Are you looking for ways to make your classroom more engaging and productive? Do you want to help your students develop their critical thinking skills and learn more deeply? If so, this article is for you.

In this article, we will share 24 activities that you can use to foster productive talk and deeper learning in your classroom. These activities are designed to help students develop their:

- Communication skills
- Critical thinking skills

- Collaboration skills
- Problem-solving skills
- Content knowledge

These activities are suitable for students of all ages and grade levels. They can be used in any subject area. With these activities, you can create a dynamic learning environment where students are actively engaged in their learning.

## **24 Activities for Productive Talk and Deeper Learning**

### **1. Socratic Seminar**



A Socratic seminar is a structured discussion in which students take turns questioning each other about a text or topic. The goal of a Socratic seminar

is to help students develop their critical thinking skills and to deepen their understanding of the material.

## **2. Jigsaw**



Jigsaw is a cooperative learning activity in which students are divided into small groups. Each group is responsible for learning about a different part of a topic. Once the groups have learned about their part of the topic, they come together to share their learning with the rest of the class.

## **3. Think-Pair-Share**



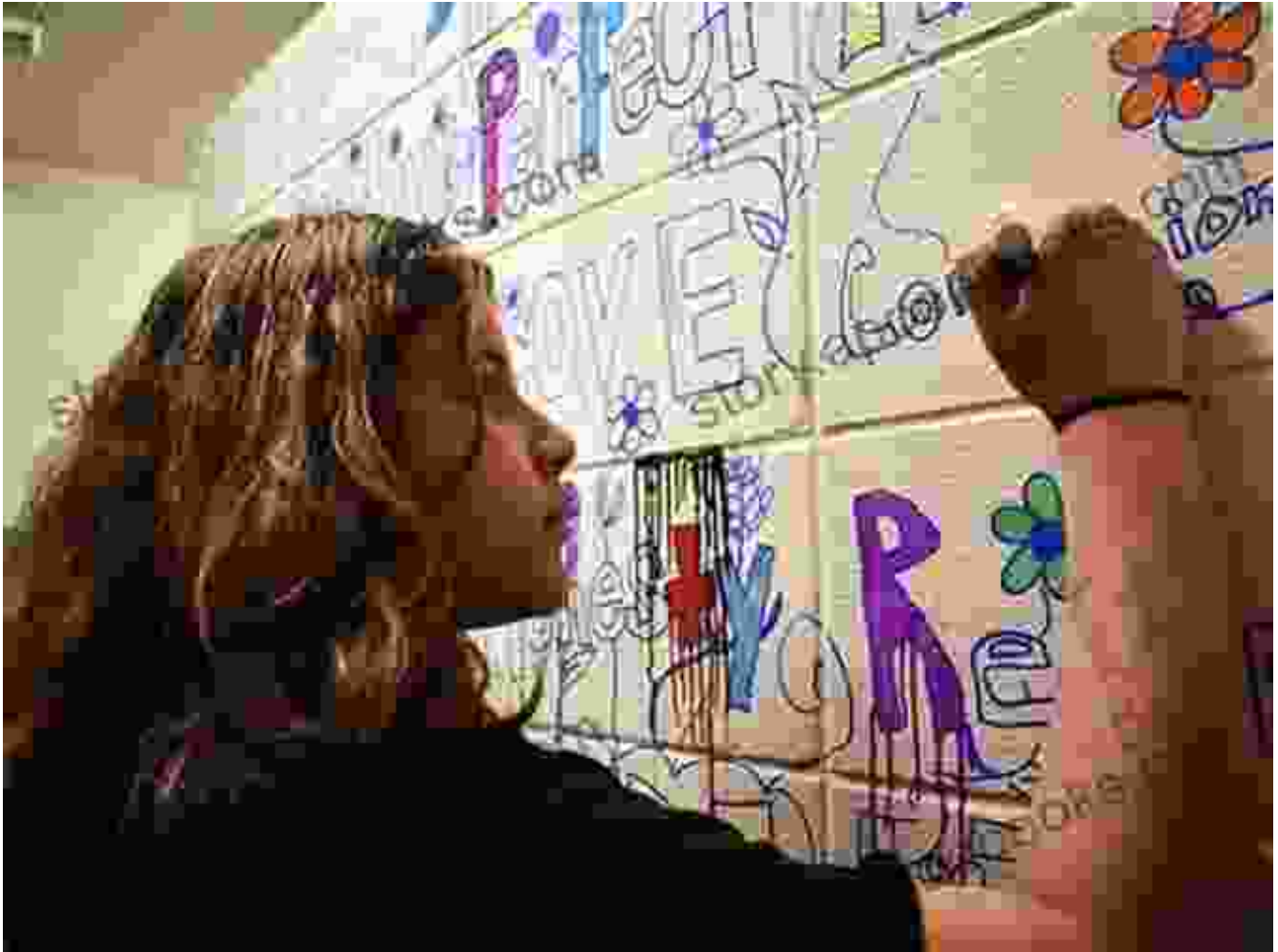
Think-pair-share is a simple but effective activity that can be used to get students thinking about a topic. In this activity, students first think about a question or prompt on their own. Then, they pair up with a partner and share their ideas. Finally, the pairs share their ideas with the whole class.

#### **4. Four Corners**



Four corners is a fun and engaging activity that can be used to assess students' understanding of a topic. In this activity, the teacher posts four different statements around the room. Students then choose the statement that they agree with most and move to the corresponding corner of the room. Once students have chosen their corners, they discuss their reasons for choosing that statement with the other students in their corner.

## 5. Graffiti Wall



A graffiti wall is a great way to get students thinking creatively about a topic. In this activity, the teacher provides students with a large piece of paper or a whiteboard. Students then write down their thoughts and ideas on the paper. Once students have finished writing, they can walk around and read each other's thoughts and ideas.

## **6. Role Playing**



Role playing is a great way to help students understand different perspectives and to develop their problem-solving skills. In this activity, students take on the roles of different characters and act out a scenario. Once the scenario has been acted out, students can discuss what they learned from the experience.

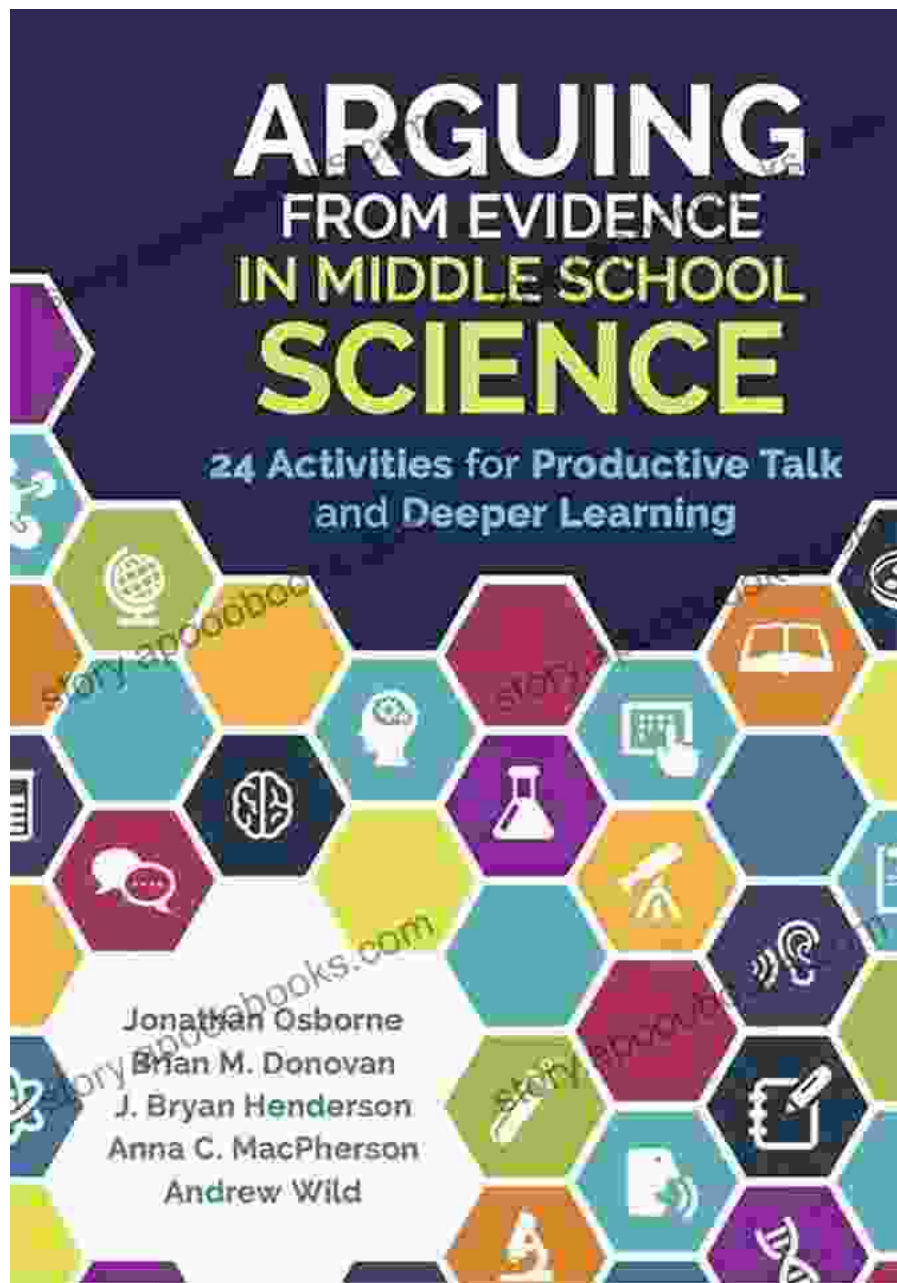
## **7. Simulation**



A simulation is a more complex version of role playing. In a simulation, students take on the roles of different characters and work together to solve a problem. Simulations can be used to teach students about a variety of topics, such as history, science, and economics.

## **8. Debate**





Debates are a great way to help students develop their critical thinking skills and to learn how to argue persuasively. In a debate, students take on two opposing sides of an issue and present their arguments to a panel of judges. The judges then decide which side presented the stronger arguments.

## 9. Fishbowl



A fishbowl is a lively and engaging activity that can be used to discuss a controversial topic. In this activity, a small group of students sit in the center of the room and discuss a topic. The rest of the students sit around the outside of the circle and listen to the discussion. Students can then ask questions or make comments to the students in the center of the circle.

## **10. Expert Panel**



An expert panel is a great way to help students learn about a topic from a variety of perspectives. In this activity, students research a topic and then present their findings to the class. The students can then ask questions and make comments to the experts.










## **11. Think-Tac-Toe**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Class/Period: \_\_\_\_\_

# Think-Tac-Toe

Complete three activities from the following choices. (The same activities do not have to follow the rules of regular tic-tac-toe, you can just choose any three)

<p>Write about the effects of VEMS making students wear uniforms. What would be the causes of them choosing this? Fill out a Cause and Effect Worksheet for this topic.</p> 	<p>What is your favorite food? List at least 7 steps to creating it. *Remember to include gathering the ingredients as a step! Use the Steps worksheet.</p> 	<p>Compare and Contrast the following: going to a university after high school OR jumping right into the workforce. Use the Compare and Contrast Worksheet.</p> 
<p>You are preparing a surprise party for your best friend. List 5 things that you need to make a perfect party. Use the Steps sheet.</p> 	<p>YOU CHOOSE BY AGE Pick 2 things to compare and contrast of your choice. Use the compare and contrast worksheet.</p> 	<p>You want to convince your parents to allow you to go on a school trip to London. List 6 things you would use to get them to let you go. Use the STEPS worksheet.</p> 
<p>Compare and Contrast your life in July compared to your life in December. Use the Compare &amp; Contrast chart.</p> 	<p>The roller coaster you are riding, creeps to the top of the hill and gets stuck. Trace the causes and effects of this situation. Use the Cause &amp; Effect worksheet.</p> 	<p>You find a lost animal on the street. Trace the cause and effects of it being lost. Be the owner, figure out how the dog, the owner, the dog got out, what the owner did. Use the Cause &amp; Effect sheet.</p> 

Think-tac-toe is a fun and engaging game that can be used to review a topic. In this game, students create a tic-tac-toe board and fill in the squares with questions or prompts. Students then take turns playing the game and answering the questions or prompts. The first student to get three in a row wins the game.

## 12. Gallery Walk



A gallery walk is a great way to get students up and moving around. In this activity, students post their work around the room. Students then walk around the room and look at each other's work.

### **13. Literature Circles**

# LITERATURE CIRCLES



# GROUPING STUDENTS

Literature circles are a great way to get students engaged in reading and discussing literature. In this activity, students read a book together and then meet in small groups to discuss the book. The students can discuss the characters, the plot, the themes, and the author's style.

## 14. Book Clubs



Book clubs are similar to literature circles, but they are more focused on the social aspects of reading. In a book club, students read a book together and then meet to discuss the book and socialize with each other.

## **15. Author Studies**



Author studies are a great way to help students learn about the life and work of an author. In this activity, students read a variety of works by an author and then work together to create a presentation about the author's life and work.

## **16. Creative Writing Workshops**



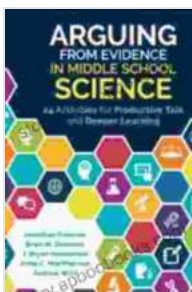


Creative writing workshops are a great way to help students develop their writing skills. In this activity, students write creatively and then share their work with each other for feedback.

## **17. Service Learning Projects**



Service learning projects are a great way to help students connect their learning to the real world. In this activity, students work on a project that helps to make a difference in



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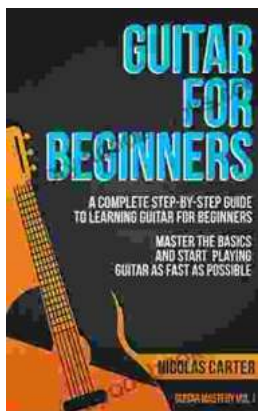
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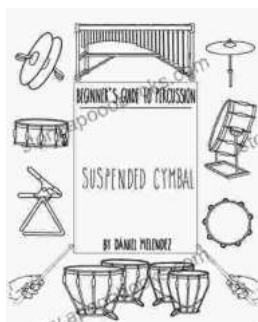
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