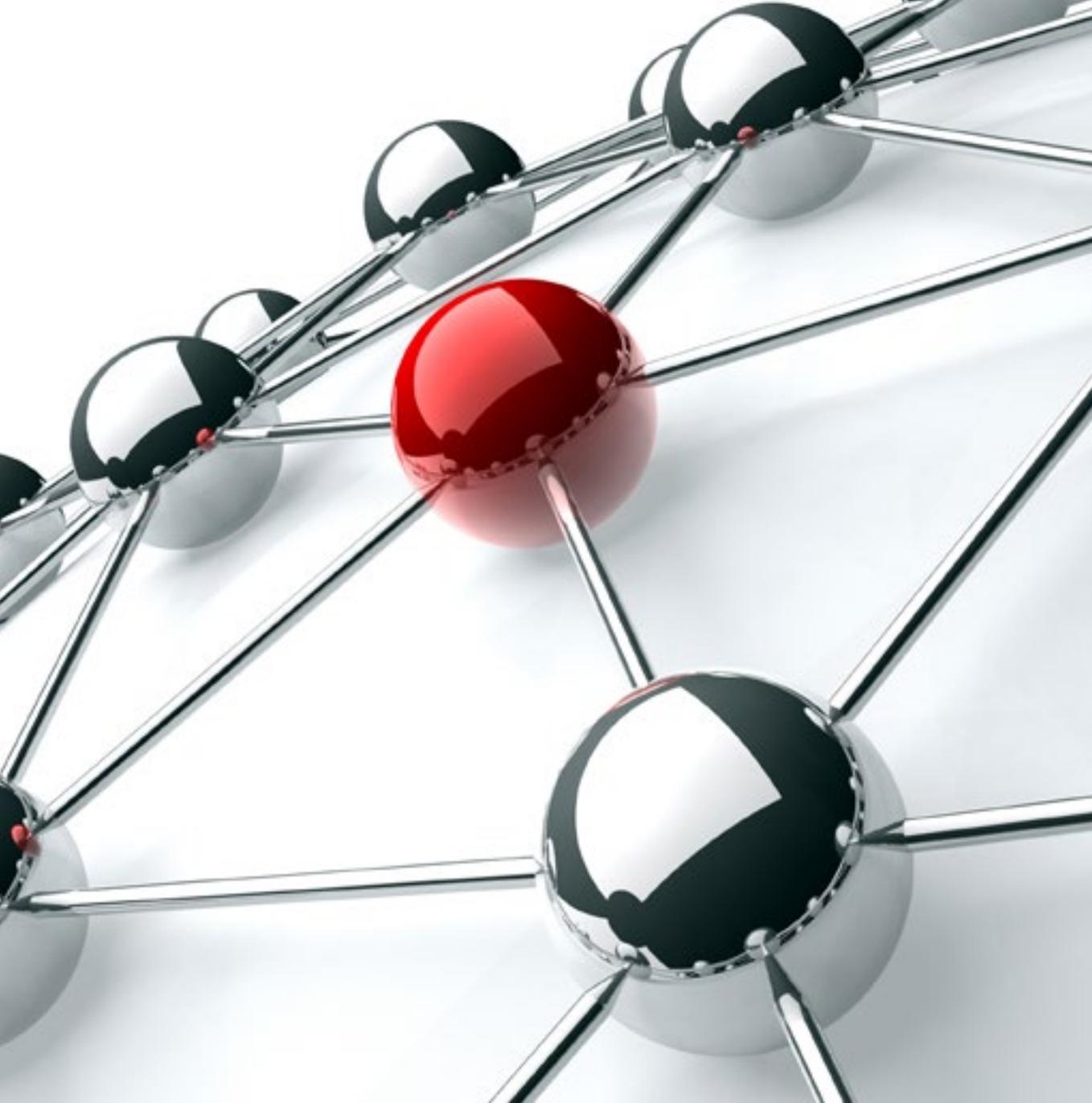


CONNECT

stand
out
teaching

OUTSTANDING LESSON PLANNING





WELCOME TO 'CONNECT'

Literacy is vital to successful learning and communication, so how do you get your students to connect?

The 'Connect' strategy from Standout Teaching is a simple, effective approach to literacy that delivers it in an accessible, easy to understand format for students to access.

Tried and tested, 'Connect' will raise the profile of literacy within the classroom and develop student ownership of literacy through developing their skills and allowing them to make independent decisions on what techniques will support their learning.

This book briefly outlines the main concepts of the 'Connect' strategy. If you like this then you can access more detailed guidance, along with resources and tools, at the Standout Teaching website.

Give it try and ensure all your students 'connect'

Regards

John Winwood
Founder & Teacher



OVERVIEW

This strategy is a combination of elements brought together under the umbrella of 'Connect'.

It is designed to allow students to take ownership of literacy activities and develop a set of core skills that they can use across a range of activities and subjects.

The elements, which makeup 'Connect' are as follows:

Connect Branding

The use of clear, simple icons and a logo to signpost the use of literacy

Connect Formulas

Frameworks to support the structure of written work

Active Reading

A framework to support engagement and understanding when reading text

Active Assessment

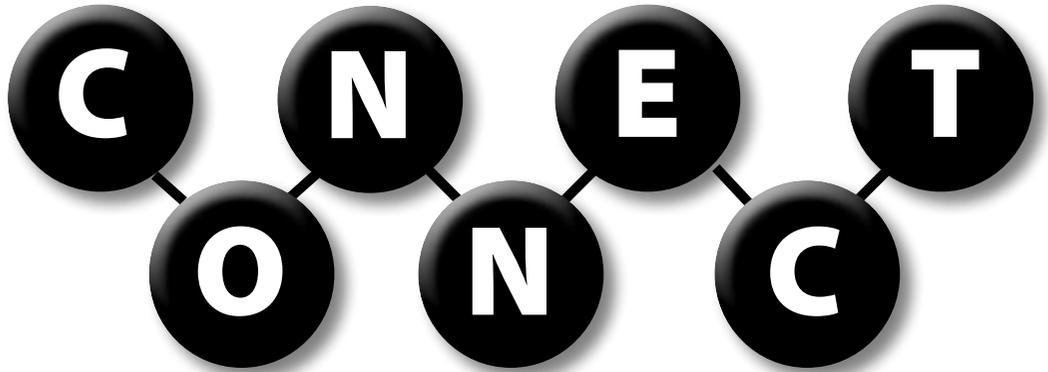
A framework to support student ownership of literacy assessment

Connect Mat

An adaptable tool to support a range of literacy activities

The aim is that all of these elements are practiced on a regular basis to develop students' literacy skills. The following content within this book outlines each of these concepts in more detail.

'Connect' logo



'Formulae' icons



'Skill' icons



BRANDING

Drawing from practice developed by global business.

The concept of using clear, simple branding to support the signposting of literacy skills is a key element to the connect strategy which allows students to take ownership. This has 3 strands to it:

- The 'Connect' logo
- Icons to represent each of the Connect Formulae
- Icons to represent the type of literacy skill

The aim is to place the Connect logo onto every resource used to support literacy to allow easy identification for students that they are accessing literacy skills. This is then supported through selecting relevant icons to provide additional support as to what type of skill they are using. Used at regular intervals, the branding helps to reinforce the use of literacy skills so that students can develop ownership and make decisions as to when is best to access them.



FORMULAS

The ability to structure writing in various forms is a core part to success within education for all students.

There are many commonly used formulas to support this process and the 'Connect' strategy pulls together some of the key ones under the 'Connect' umbrella.

The formulas used within Connect are as follows:

PEE - Point/Evidence/Explore

PQE - Point/Quote/Explore

PEAL - Point/Evidence/Analyse/Link

TIP TOP - (For paragraphing) Time/Place/Topic/Person

APPLE - (For analysing text) Audience/Purpose/Presentation/Language/Effect

It is important to remember that these are in no way exhaustive and teachers should consider adding their own as they see fit. However, the important aspect is that once the core set of formulas have been decided upon they need to be used frequently and consistently to support the students in developing these particular skills.



ACTIVE ASSESSMENT

The most common approach to assessing spelling and grammar is for teachers to highlight the error and usually write the correction next to it.

This is fine as a method of supporting the students so they can see the errors that they are making, however as a method of learning it does not support them in being able to do this process for themselves. This is where 'Active Assessment' helps to develop students' skills.

The principal is that you should avoid correcting mistakes for students. Instead, what you need to do is indicate the type of error and where it occurs, and allow the students time within the lesson to identify the error and correct it. An example of this could be a focus on spellings. You could indicate which line has a spelling mistake and allow them to check via a dictionary or a keyword list.

Other methods you could try are-

Boxing - Try drawing a box around a section of text containing errors

Starting positions - Indicate the lines of text containing errors

Codes - Use codes to identify what types of errors a text contains

However you approach it, 'Active Assessment' should be built into your lessons as a task for students to work on developing their analytical literacy skills.



CONNECT MAT

Literacy is applied in several forms, these being writing, reading, listening and speaking.

All of these areas need some form of support to develop students' skills. The 'Connect Mat' is designed to be able to support all 4 of these areas. The 'Connect Mat' supports students through providing the following information-

1. Keywords and their meanings
2. Sentence starters
3. Connectives
4. Key punctuation

Each of these areas can be used within each of the 4 types of communication. The great thing about the 'Connect Mat' is that you can pick and choose which, if not all, of the 4 areas are required for your lesson and prepare them accordingly. A flexible, effective tool.



ACTIVE READING

When you ask students to read a piece of text how do you know that they have really read it and understand the information?

SUB is designed to promote active reading of texts through the use of the following sequence:

Scan

Ask your students to either read the text, or if they have the skills, to scan through it.

Underline

Ask them to read the text a second time, but this time they are to underline the key information within it.

Box

Finally, ask the students to look at the key information, which has been underlined, and get them to draw boxes around the keywords.

The result is that the students have read the text several times, had to consider its content and have drawn out information that they could use for future learning.



SUMMARY

The Connect strategy has been designed so that it develops students ownership of their literacy skills. In summary it is:

Simple to use

Develops a core set of skills

Allows for students to revisit and practice literacy skills

Provides consistency

Allows identification of when literacy is a focus

To further support the delivery of this strategy, the Standout Teaching website has a range of resources, tools and advice.

Give 'Connect' a try, we have and it definitely works!



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