

# EYE WITNESS NEWS MOMENT

*Capturing the news as it breaks helps your students review what they learn.*

### Brief Description

According to Eric Jensen, a leading translator of brain research for educators, students who talk about what they learn and do what they learn, learn it. This activity maximizes student conversation about the content. Here's how you can use an Eye Witness News Moment.

### The Process

1. *Establish the two roles each student will play.* Explain that when the students are the expert they stand tall and take on the air of an expert (a know-it-all with a pleasant personality). When they are the interviewer students address an imaginary camera, with microphone (pen) in hand, and welcome the viewing audience to "Moments with Dr. (fill in the student's name)." Then they pose questions to the expert about the content just learned in class. For example: Facing the camera:

*Welcome to our show. Today we are interviewing the world renowned expert in plate tectonics, Dr. Seth Derner. Turning to the expert: Please tell us, Dr. Seth, what is so important about plate tectonics. Point the microphone in the direction of the expert. Note: This activity works best when*

students generate appropriate questions prior to the interview.

2. *Establish the process.* Explain that this activity is to aid in understanding and rehearsing today's topic. Share that the power lies in how well students can play the roles and use the information they just learned. It is a timed event and they will switch roles midway through the event. Note: The time allocated is dependent upon the amount of content students will be rehearsing. An average time limit is three to five minutes, switching roles midway through.

3. *Begin Eye Witness Moment.* Have students stand, pair up, and get ready to go "live" at your signal.

4. *Switch roles.* Midway through, get everyone's attention. Students now switch roles. Note: The new expert usually picks up from where the other left off. If the first expert covered all the information, then the new expert simply starts at the beginning.

5. *Conclude the activity.* After everyone has played both roles at least once, students acknowledge each other with "Thank you!" You can now randomly select individuals to tell

what their expert said as a way to check for understanding and increasing individual accountability to the content.

### SmartTip



**The Eye Witness News Moment enhances students' linguistic and interpersonal intelligences.**



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