Education Methodologies We Love To Use!

VTS:

What is it?
VTS stands for “Visual Teaching Strategies.” This describes the method in which you start by asking, “what’s going on here” and let students tell you what they observe. You follow up by asking “what evidence do you see that makes you say that?”

Why do we love it?
We love VTS because it encourages close thinking, making inferences, and critical analysis. It also challenges students to provide evidence to support all of their claims. And, though we’re guiding the conversation to make sure they are getting accurate information, the students are still in control of their learning by telling you what they’re seeing and how they’re interpreting it.

How does it help kids?
This helps students achieve self-directed learning as well as giving them opportunities to explore in a safe environment. This strategy is also great because you don’t need to come in knowing any historical information to succeed--they just have to describe what they’re seeing!

Dialogic practices:

What is it?
Dialogic practices involve engaging in conversations and prompting students to further explain their points while making connections to their own life to better understand ideas.

Why do we love it?
This method gets kids talking rather than passively listening in a space. These types of conversations also help students make connections between the past and present, illuminating the relevance of history to their lives.

How does it help kids?
Dialogic practices are great for students for many reasons but a few include:
- It challenges students to clearly explain their views and potentially interrogate what they thought they knew or believed
- It helps students connect the past to the present
- It allows students to fully engage and participate in their consumption of knowledge

Sensory learning:

What is it?
Sensory learning is learning that takes place and engages all of the senses! (touch, taste, smell, sight, sound)
Why do we love it?
While we normally engage in sight and sound with students, we don’t always hit the other senses. For the purposes of this program, we won’t hit on the taste sense but we can start to include touch and smell. Engaging in all of a students’ senses makes for a more fun and engaging experience! We know that when kids are more engaged in learning, they retain more information and understand its importance.

How does it help kids?
Sensory learning helps kids because it helps all kinds of learners--tactile, auditory, and visual learners will have their needs more deliberately met through employing this methodology. This method is also important for students with different abilities--not everyone has every sense so engaging in multiple senses is more inclusive for all students. This method is also great for English Language Learners who may still be working on language comprehension but can use their senses to understand your point and participate with their peers.