

SDCTE ECHO

February 2021

How far will your ECHO reach?

Please share our February newsletter and links below with your teaching friends and colleagues.

Join our membership at sdcte.org!

Find us on Twitter @SDCTEnglish!

Join our Facebook Group @SD English Teachers (SDCTE) and like our official page at South Dakota Council of Teachers of English (SDCTE).



Photo Credit: Jenna Odegaard—Lake Preston Preschool Teacher

February 2021

How 'Among Us' Helps Students Master Argumentative Writing

In the popular online strategy game, students make claims, listen to counterclaims, and reach a conclusion—skills they need to write a strong argumentative essay.

By [Angelique Ganas](#)

February 5, 2021

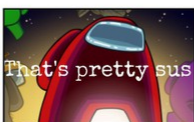
From: *Edutopia*

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/how-among-us-helps-students->

Like many other teachers in the world, I have been tasked with the incredible challenge of teaching online to a sea of students who are used to being in a classroom learning, discussing, and connecting with their peers. In just a couple of days, I went from a loud, bustling classroom full of energetic 10th graders to an eerily quiet Zoom call full of black boxes and muted mics. Hearing and seeing my students became a thing of the past. When I began to notice my students struggling to understand argumentative writing, I knew I had to get creative.

In addition to teaching English, I run my school site's gaming and e-sports clubs. Advising those club meetings was like night and day compared with teaching my English class; I could barely say a word during our meetings because my students were so excited to play games with each other.

It all clicked when my gaming students asked if they could play a game called *Among Us*. As my students worked together to find the imposter, I noticed them using all the skills I was teaching in my classes; I heard each of them formulate a claim using multiple pieces of evidence. I listened to them respectfully disagree, negotiate, and work together with their peers to analyze the claims they were hearing and ultimately decide as a team which claim was strongest. The best part? None of them even realized that what they were doing was academic. That's when I knew I needed to bring it into my classroom.



Continued on page 6

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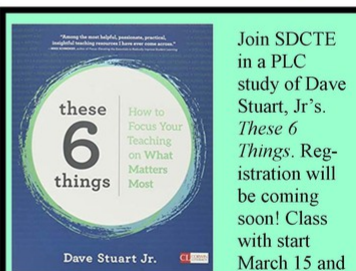
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Join SDCTE in a PLC study of Dave Stuart, Jr.'s *These 6 Things*. Registration will be coming soon! Class with start March 15 and run until April

30. We are finalizing graduate credit and syllabus details next week. This would a fantastic book study for your department or group of teacher friends.

Watch for an email on Friday, Feb 26!

You can check out the first chapter for free at <https://davestuartjr.com/six/>.



2021 Februar ECHO.pdf

Download
5.1 MB

Let's Just Chat & Share Ideas

Moderated by
Corrine Kallemeyn
Tuesday,
Feb. 23, 2021
7:30 pm CST



EDUCATOR ECHO Spring 2021
Online Series

Event Information

Let's Just Chat and Share

Now that we are almost halfway through Spring Semester 2021, let's take some time to come together and share what is working in our classrooms, any new lesson plans or ideas, or books we are reading. If there is a lesson you need some inspiration for, bring your idea to the group.

All current SDCTE members will be sent the Zoom link. If you are not a current member, please RSVP to sdcte.echo@gmail.com

When?

Tuesday, Feb 23, 2021, 07:30 PM

20-21 PROJECT LIT PICKS



#ProjectLITBookClub

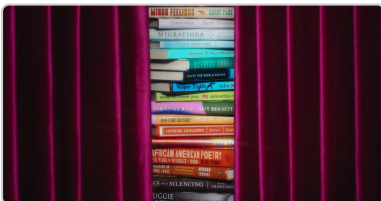
@projectLITcomm

First Book Marketplace

Stretch every dollar, reach more kids.
Free books to eligible schools and public libraries.

MacMillan Book Sweepstakes

Sweepstakes begins at 12:30 a.m. Eastern Time (ET) on Thursday, February 04, 2021 and continues through 11:59 p.m. ET on Tuesday, February 23, 2021



The 100 Must-Read Books of 2020

The fiction, nonfiction and poetry that deepened our understanding, ignited our curiosity and helped us escape in 2020.

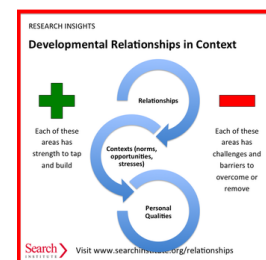
[time.com](https://www.time.com)



Why Students Should Write in All Subjects



8 Quick Checks for Understanding



The Developmental Relationships Framework

Writing improves learning by consolidating information in long-term memory, researchers explain. Plus, five engaging writing activities to use in all subjects.

By [Youki Terada](#)

January 7, 2021

Edutopia

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/why-students-should-write-all-subjects>

Formative assessment is a proven technique for improving student learning, and the strategies shared here by Jay McTighe work both in the classroom and remotely.

By [Jay McTighe](#)

January 28, 2021

Edutopia

<https://www.edutopia.org/article/8-quick-checks-understanding>

5 Things to Know about

Developmental Relationships

The summary of the elements and actions in the Developmental Relationships Framework skims the surface of how relationships work in young people's lives.

Search Institutete

<https://www.search-institute.org/developmental-relationships/developmental-relationships-framework/>

Nine Nonobvious Ways to Have Deeper Conversations The art of making connection even in a time of dislocation. By David Brooks Opinion Columnist for the New York Times