



# Stepping into Success

With Melissa Castillo  
*Straight Outta Class*



No need to navigate your beginning years of teaching alone. Need help and direction writing your units of study or lesson plans? What about preparing for your first admin evaluation? Getting a handle on grading or preparing for parent conferences. I've got you covered with systems you can put into place right away, strategies, resources, plus I'll be there to help along the way.

Let me help you have a successful and amazing school year!



## SAMPLES FROM ONE OF THE THREE TOPICS FOR THE MONTH OF SEPTEMBER

Thanks for downloading your free sample! This is just a small glimpse at the type of detailed content and resources you'll get when you join the VIP club.

### What You Get in September

- Developing Content Rich Units
- Writing Effective Lesson Plans
- Engaging Students

Questions?  
Contact [Melissa](#)

1. White Board Challenges
2. Sticky Note Gallery Walks
3. Character Traits Text Evidence \*SAMPLE
4. Mini Skills Group Competition
5. First Fridays
6. Gamified Assignments
7. Choice Boards
8. Stations and Centers
9. Interactive Novel Companions
10. Digital Breakouts/Escape Rooms

**Strategy 3. Character Traits Text Evidence** sample you get:

**8 - PAGES OF CONTENT**

**1 - TEACHER DIRECTIONS FOR USE PAGE**

**5 - STUDENT HANDOUTS INCLUDING THREE SEPARATE ASSIGNMENTS**

# 10 STUDENT ENGAGEMENT STRATEGIES



1. White Board Challenges
2. Sticky Note Gallery Walks
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# character traits text evidence choice boards

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# ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY #3

## CHARACTER TRAITS text evidence

### AT A GLANCE

**SKILLS:** Characterization, Textual Evidence, Quotation Marks

**LEARNER STANDARD:** Students identify text evidence to support character traits; using text evidence to support an appropriate response; use quotations correctly; identify and use adjectives;

### Materials and Supplies:

- ✓ White or colored art paper on a roll cut into 24'X24' or 24'X36' pieces
- ✓ Markers, colored pencils, or crayons
- ✓ Fictional text selection
- ✓ Rulers
- ✓ Character traits list
- ✓ STEAL handout

### Procedure:

1. During reading students will choose a character to analyze.
2. As a group have students select one or more traits from a character traits list.
3. Students will use the reading to quote textual evidence to support their trait choice on notebook paper or handout response form.
4. Once students have identified text evidence for each of the STEAL categories or the number determined by the teacher, they will record their evidence on the art paper.
5. The group art paper (trait poster) will be displayed in the classroom as an anchor chart for the remainder of the reading.
6. One speaker from each group will explain the trait and text evidence to the class.
7. Students participate in a gallery walk to examine the character traits posters completed by groups.
8. Students complete a Character Snapshot poem in both first draft and final copy form.

### Assessment:

Grade each character trait handout as an individual assignment. Take a grade on the following skills:

- Reading Response: Choosing appropriate text evidence for STEAL categories
- Punctuation: Using quotation marks correctly
- Character Snapshot first draft and final copy

# CHARACTER TRAITS USING S.T.E.A.L.



**Do you know the five elements of characterization?  
An easy way to remember them is to learn the acronym S.T.E.A.L.**

- S** *speech* ~ What a character says (dialogue) & how (speaker tags/ tone) a character speaks to others
- T** *thoughts* ~ What a character thinks, believes, values, and what motivates a character
- E** *effects* on OTHERS ~ Relationships the character has with others and how they treat each other
- A** *actions* ~ How a character behaves and reacts to people and events
- L** *looks* ~ A character's physical appearance including physical features, clothing, gestures, etc.

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

Date: \_\_\_\_\_

## CHARACTER ANALYSIS

Make a list of ten character traits that describe **speech, thoughts, effect on others, actions, and looks**. Support your choice with evidence from the text. Be sure to include the page number and use quotation marks.

CHARACTER NAME \_\_\_\_\_

Character Trait	S T E A L	Page #	Text Evidence Supporting Character Trait

# GROUP ART PAPER POSTER SET UP

character \_\_\_\_\_

character trait \_\_\_\_\_

definition of trait

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

**S** speech

**T** thoughts

**E** effects

**A** ACTIONS

**L** looks



# CHARACTER SNAPSHOT

- Line 1: Character's first name
- Line 2: Four adjectives describing the character (include more than appearance)
- Line 3: Encountering (conflict, problem, or challenge)
- Line 4: Loving
- Line 5: Feeling
- Line 6: Noticing
- Line 7: Learning that
- Line 8: Thinking
- Line 9: Who used to believe \_\_\_\_\_ but now knows \_\_\_\_\_
- Line 10: Character's last name, nickname or repeated first name



## FIRST DRAFT

Encountering \_\_\_\_\_

Loving \_\_\_\_\_

Feeling \_\_\_\_\_

Noticing \_\_\_\_\_

Learning that \_\_\_\_\_

Thinking \_\_\_\_\_

Who used to believe \_\_\_\_\_

But now knows \_\_\_\_\_

# CHARACTER SNAPSHOT OF

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Encountering

Loving

Feeling

Noticing

Learning that

Thinking

Who used to believe

But now knows

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## ENGAGEMENT STRATEGY #7

CHOICE BOARDS \*VOCABULARY IS JUST ONE EXAMPLE

### AT A GLANCE

**SKILLS:** Vocabulary development

**LEARNER STANDARD:** Students define the meaning of unfamiliar words and terms; students use words correctly in a sentence to illustrate meaning

### Materials and Supplies:

- ✓ Word Memes handout
- ✓ Vocabulary List
- ✓ Dictionary online or hard copy
- ✓ Digital access if applicable

### Procedure:

1. Assign students a list of vocabulary terms for your unit or lesson
2. Pass out a copy of the Vocabulary Choice Board handout to students.
3. Explain each choice and the requirements and expectations for the activities.
4. Decide whether you will allow students to use forms of the words to complete the activity choices and give them the guidelines they need to follow.
5. Students will complete two choices each week or the number of activities you deem appropriate for your students.

### Assessment:

- Collect all work at the end of the week for grading.
- Have students choose their best activity to be graded each week.
- Have students keep a vocabulary notebook with all their work and grade the entire notebook each grading period.
- There are many other grading possibilities with this resource. Choose the one that works best in your classroom.

# HOW TO USE THE VOCABULARY CHOICE BOARD

## Getting started:

1. Pass out a copy of the Vocabulary Choice Board handout to students.
2. Explain each choice and the requirements and expectations for the activities.
3. Decide whether you will allow students to use forms of the words to complete the activity choices and give them the guidelines they need to follow.
4. Students will complete two choices each week or the number of activities you deem appropriate for your students.

## Options for use:

- Create a resource folder with the choice explanations and examples to keep in the classroom for student reference.
- Make copies of the explanation pages, laminate them, and post those in your classroom.
- Create a vocabulary packet for each student including the choice board and all the explanations and examples.
- Use the activities as stations.

## Grading options:

- Collect all work at the end of the week for grading.
- Have students choose their best activity to be graded each week.
- Have students keep a vocabulary notebook with all their work and grade the entire notebook each grading period.
- There are many other grading possibilities with this resource. Choose the one that works best in your classroom.

I only made a few suggestions for online puzzle makers, flashcard makers, drawing programs. A Google search will produce options that can be used within your district's technology guidelines and permissions.

# WORD MEMES



**STUDENTS  
PLACE  
EXAMPLES IN  
THE BOXES**