MATCHMAKER GIST TWIST!

Sometimes students have the impression that throwing a few things onto a piece of huge poster board is pleasing to a teacher’s eye! Well, is that thinking flawed? We think so! To demonstrate that mastery is possible on small items, we share one of the “little” activities students enjoy. Think matchbooks! Think advertising! Think reading and writing! Students can show they know the gist of any concept in any classroom setting if you show them how to make these handy matchbooks. Matchbooks become illustrative flipbooks; incorporate reading, writing, and art as a mini report; prompt students to share knowledge about content they have studied; and create trivia games to share in preparation for an assessment. Only our imaginations limit the possibilities!

Materials:
Matchbook template
Cardstock
Plain white paper
Scissors/Paper trimmer
Stapler
Colored pencils
Markers
Sharpie markers
Pencils/pens

Preparations:
1. Run enough copies of the matchbook template on cardstock.
2. Cut out the matchbooks, making sure the edges are straight.
3. Score the folds in the cardstock so it looks like a matchbook cover.
4. Cut plain white paper so it fits inside the matchbook. (Add lined paper if you want to mix it up a bit.) For the template provided, cut pieces 3” x 3” or use Post-it notes that are already that size.
5. Decide how you want students to decorate the inside and outside of their matchbook cover. Have a few samples ready so they understand what you expect.

Activity:
1. Decorate the entire matchbook cover inside and out according to teacher’s instructions and demonstration. [Note: Decorating can be done after assembling the matchbook if necessary.]
2. Place the stack of papers or Post-it notes inside the matchbook and line them up so they are centered and edges to the left and right are even.
7. Staple the “upwards” bottom flap over the stack of papers—one staple to the left and another to the right. Make sure the staples are equidistant from the side edges and half an inch from the bottom edge so that the cover is even when folded over and tucked in.
8. Fold the top flap over the stapled papers and tuck it underneath the stapled flap.
9. If you have not decorated the cover, do so now.

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