Title of lesson: Nine Square Your Story with the Plotline

Suggested grade/age: 3rd – 9th grade

Approximate time needed to complete lesson: 55 minutes

Learning objective(s) and significance of lesson:

- The students will use the AVID “9 Squares” model to create a story board for a fictional narrative.
- The student will understand how to develop a story from an image.

Brief summary/outline of lesson:
“Nine Squares” is an AVID (Advancement Via Individual Determination) strategy used as a comprehension tool to help the students plot the significant events in a story. This strategy has been adapted for use as a story-building tool. This can also be called a visual outline or a picture map

- The purpose of this lesson is to provide students with one more strategy to begin their writing.
- This lesson should be placed at the end of a short story unit.
- This lesson should be one of the first writing lessons in the culminating activity for writing a short story.
- After students have read a number of short stories and analyzed the elements of each story and the plotline of a story, students should use what they have learned to write a short story.

Materials:
- Students will need to bring a picture to class that is “worthy” of story
- Writing Utensil
- Paper

Procedure:
1. In partners the students share their pictures.
2. Each student takes a turn with both pictures writing down 3 ideas that might go with that picture.
3. The students combine both sets of ideas to come up with a narrative.
5. Start Your Squares – Begin on square 5 and DRAW the Climax first.
6. Continue drawing your Squares – Entrance into the story (Square 1) Conflict (Square 2) Rising Action (Square 3-4).
7. Finish drawing Your Squares – Falling Action (Square 7-8) and Resolution (Square 9).
8. REFLECTION on the PROCESS: (Meta-cognition)
Do you see yourself using 9 Squares again in the future to help you write a story? Why or Why not? This is a 3-4 sentence reflection.

**Related Resources:** AVID STRATEGIES: PATH TRAINING

**Possible extensions or adaptations for different purposes/ student needs:**
This is a good lesson for visual learners. It is a great way to map your idea’s without worrying so much about the details. This is a great way for all students to get their ideas out of their heads on paper. It is also a good way to make sure the student has a clear beginning, middle and an end.

**For additional information, contact:**
Karen.palmen@spps.org