

Create a *myPerspectives* **unit theme board** for your classroom, a place to build excitement, capture new learning, and reflect on deepening understanding.

What is a theme board?

A theme board is a real or virtual bulletin board that shares key information about the unit: the theme, the Essential Question, the performance task, and anything else you want your students to have handy during the unit. It grows as students progress through the unit.

Why create a theme board?

Unlike traditional bulletin boards, which tend to be static, the theme board is a *dynamic* space to share and record key information about the unit and to capture student insight as it develops. Think of it as class-wide evidence of student learning.

WORD	MENTAL MODEL	ESSENTIAL QUESTION	ARGUMENT MODEL
evidence LATIN ROOT: -vid- "see"	1. A r... 2. The... evi...	INTRO What qualities help us survive? 	 Everyone Should Learn Basic First Aid
credible LATIN ROOT: -cred- "believe"	1. Marco is a <i>credible</i> v... pays attention and t... 2. Even if a story seem... should always confi...		ASSIGNMENT Write a well-structured and c... argumentative essay in which you state and defend a position on the following question: To what extent should people in life-or-death situations be held accountable for their actions? Support your ideas with evidence from your reading, background knowledge, and any research you may conduct. In addition, review the elements of argumentative essays and include them in your work. Use Academic Vocabulary Try to use one or more of the unit's academic vocabulary words in your essay: <i>evidence, credible, valid, formulate, logical</i> .

Survival

SURVIVAL
 collapsed emergency help
 culpable *trepidat...*

GROUP DISCUSSION AND SUMMARY
 With a partner or small group, **hold a discussion** about the following quotation:
"Friendship is unnecessary. . . It has no survival value; rather it is one of those things that give value to survival."
 —C. S. Lewis
 Work together to clarify your understanding of Lewis's statement. Then, decide your point of view—do you agree or disagree with Lewis? Support your viewpoint with details from the unit texts and your own experiences. Work to integrate at least two academic vocabulary words into the conversation. Then, present a summary of your discussion, including points of agreement and disagreement, to the class.

He counted faster, to hurry them up, to bring them to the surface quickly—anything rather than the terror of counting on and on into the blue emptiness of the morning. ~ "Through the Tunnel" para 16

How do I create a theme board?

Begin with the unit theme and the Essential Question, then add what you and your students find most valuable. Leverage collaboration tools—Padlet, Prezi®, Google® Slides—and add to a Realize Playlist. Share videos, audio, and other resources.

How do I involve students?

Invite students to co-create the theme board! Encourage them to post vivid bits of text and mentor sentences, add to a class-wide Word Wall, share insights from their peers, pose questions ... give students a voice and watch engagement grow!

Helpful Links