

Visible Thinking - Tug of War

One Visible Thinking routine that I implemented during my student teaching was the Tug of War routine. Students are asked to think about both sides of an issue and come up with evidence not only for the side they agree with, but also for the opposing side. The point of this exercise is to get students to think about issues from different viewpoints.

The unit we were working on at this time dealt with pollution. I read the book “A River Ran Wild” by Lynne Cherry to the students, which tells the story of a river that is cared for by Native Americans but is then polluted by English settlers. The students were asked to come up with evidence to support why each side was “right” in the story (i.e., the Native Americans were right because they protected the river, the English settlers were right because they created jobs and houses, etc). As the students place their evidence on the SmartBoard (in the form of sticky notes) we had a classroom discussion about why it is important to not rush to judgment when forming opinions about different sides of an issue.

Below are pictures of students working hard during this assignment!

