

Odd One Out

What is it?

This strategy asks students to look for relationships of words, phrases, or sentences, focusing on the connections that exist among them. Students are given a list or set of three to five items and are expected to justify why each could be the “odd one out.”

How do we do it?

Identify the skills or concepts that you want students to develop. Select three or four words, phrases, sentences, or pictures. In pairs, students identify the “Odd One Out” and tell why and what the others have in common.

What Outcome?

There should be more than one correct answer when selecting three or four words, phrases, sentences, or pictures. This forces students to critically examine the attributes and look for relationships both among and between items.

Steps in the Process

1. Provide students with a list of three or four related items relevant to the lesson content. (You can also use pictures.)
2. Students decide which one is the “odd one out” because it doesn’t fit with the others and justify their reasoning. They must give a reason that each of the choices might be the “odd one out”.
3. After students have learned how this activity works, ask them to create their own “odd one out” lists and trade with a partner.

Digital Adaptions

1. Use a Padlet board organized as columns (one column per concept). Students add ideas as to why the concept does not belong.
2. Use Canvas or Schoology to post a discussion.
3. Use dotstorming to post cards for each concept. Students can add comments to the cards or vote for those that do not belong.

Examples

- Hydrogen, Oxygen, Carbon Dioxide
- North Carolina, Florida, Tennessee
- Haiku, sonnet, ballad
- 81, 54, 36, 144
- 3, 6, 9, 12
- Franklin Stove, Bifocals, Lightening Rod, Light Bulb
- Self, Shelf, Shell, Shoes
- l'auberge di jeunesse, un terrain de camping, l'hôtel de ville
- Basketball / Kendo / Baseball / Soccer

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