Error/Distraction Analysis

Teachers guide students through an analysis of the Check multiple choice questions and their answers, evaluating the criteria for a correct answer or rationale for an incorrect answer.

Suggested Time: 10-15 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Preview Questions and Answers
- Eliminate Distractor Choices with Errors
- Weigh Remaining Choices and Refine Original Answer

Rationale/Research Base

Testing strategies help students translate their knowledge from classroom learning. Acquiring test-taking strategies positively affects students' ability and confidence to demonstrate their knowledge in a testing format.

Optimal Application Notes:

Students need a strong understanding of the concept(s) and/or reading in order to effectively apply testing strategies.. Students should understand the question before thinking about what a strong answer includes.

Before:

- Invite students to consider the question and think of an answer before evaluating the possible answer choices.

During:

- Teacher models evaluating answer choices, eliminating choices containing factual inaccuracies or text-based errors (sometimes called "distractors")
- Teacher models providing text evidence to disprove incorrect answers.
- Teacher models using remaining answers to refine their own answer and/or choose correct answer.
- Have students repeat the strategy in groups or independently.
- Circulate and provide feedback when necessary.

After:

- Monitor student work to answer questions, address misconceptions, or lead to whole group discussion

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Limit the number of assessment questions and provide additional time to analyze the choices.
- Model the strategy with students if they seem "stuck" and eliminate one of the choices as they build confidence by balancing four choices.

Raise Your Score

Strategy: Eliminating Distractors

Instructions: Read the multiple choice question. Be sure to fully understand the question before thinking about what an answer would include. Create an answer in your mind. Next, look at the answers. Eliminate answers that do not fit. Then, use the incorrect answers to refine your own answer and choose a final answer.

Question	My Answer	Eliminate and Refine
1. How does the introduction support the author's purpose?	*The author is explaining what the students and members of the Navajo Nation are doing together.*	A. The author engages the reader by describing an interesting fact about the program. *This doesn't make sense because the intro doesn't include factual evidence.* B. The author gives an overview of the program and the problems being tackled. *Yes! This matches my answer.* C. The author provides details about sustainability in the Navajo Nation region. *The intro does not include details.* D. The author uses evidence to support the main idea of the article. *The intro does not include evidence.*
2.		
3.		