



Vocabulary Hot Seat

Building word knowledge and conceptual understanding using key vocabulary

Suggested Time: 15 minutes

Student Tasks:

- Review Vocabulary List
- Provide a model of the routine
- Play Vocabulary Hot Seat

Online ThinkCERCA Resources

- Vocabulary

Rationale/Research Base

The Vocabulary Hot Seat strategy offers a dynamic and engaging way to build vocabulary by promoting active participation, oral communication skills, immediate feedback, and a variety of learning styles.

Optimal Application Notes:

Choose a list of vocabulary words that are meaningful or relevant to the unit or objective. Words can be abstract or concrete.

Before:

- Explain the Hot Seat concept. Explain that students will take turns in the "Hot Seat" which is a seat facing away from the board.
- Write a vocabulary word on the board.

During:

- The student in the Hot Seat can ask questions of the other students about the word in order to gather information and, ultimately, guess the word.
- Question examples: *Can this word be used to describe X character? What is a synonym of this word? Does this word have a positive or negative connotation.*
- As students guess words, they take turns taking the Hot Seat.

After:

- Facilitate discussion by asking follow-up questions or encouraging additional explanations. This helps deepen understanding and ensures that the entire class is involved.
- Offer feedback on both the questions posed by students in the Hot Seat and the responses from the class. Correct any misconceptions and reinforce correct understanding.

Scaffolds & Supports:

- Provide a list of question stems for the student in the Hot Seat to use.
- Consider limiting the types of questions.

Vocabulary Hot Seat

Instructions: Actively engage with vocabulary words through a dynamic and interactive game format.

Review

- Review the vocabulary, definitions, and parts of speech. Make sure you understand the meaning of each word.

Guidelines for Vocabulary Hot Seat:

- Arrange Seating: Set up chairs or designate an area where participants can sit in a semi-circle facing the board and one seat with the back to the board.
- Explain the Rules: Explain to the students that they will take turns being in the "hot seat," where they will ask questions about a vocabulary word and have to guess the word based on the answers the other students provide.
- Start the Game: Choose the first student in the hot seat.
- Present the Vocabulary Word: The teacher will write a word on the board behind the student in the hot seat.
- Questions and Feedback: The student in the hot seat asks questions to gather information about the word. The other students provide answers.
- The student in the hot seat continues to ask questions and gather information until the word is guessed correctly.
- Rotate Players: After a round is complete (i.e., the student in the hot seat has guessed the correct word), rotate to the next player.
- Set a Time Limit (Optional): If you want to keep the game moving quickly, you can set a time limit for each player's turn in the hot seat. Use a timer to ensure consistency and fairness.
- Reflect and Discuss: After all students have had a chance to be in the hot seat, facilitate a discussion about the vocabulary words.

Extension Activity (optional):

- To challenge yourself and deepen your understanding of the vocabulary words, consider limiting the types or number of questions allowed by the person in the hot seat.

Vocabulary Hot Seat

3rd – 5th

Instructions: Have fun with your classmates and get better with your vocabulary words through an interactive game.

Review

- Think about the new words you've learned, what they mean, and what type of word they are (like a noun, verb, or adjective).

Guidelines for Vocabulary Hot Seat:

- Arrange Seating: Help your teacher arrange chairs in a semi-circle facing the board with one seat with the back towards the board.
- Explain the Rules: Students will take turns being in the "hot seat," where they will ask questions about a vocabulary word and have to guess the word based on the answers the other students ask.
- Start the Game: One student will be first to sit in the hot seat.
- Look at the Vocabulary Word: The teacher will write a word on the board behind the student in the hot seat. Everyone except the student in the hot seat should look at the word and make sure they are familiar with it.
- Questions and Feedback: The student in the hot seat asks questions to gather information about the word. The other students give answers.
- The student in the hot seat keeps asking questions until the word is guessed correctly.
- Rotate Players: After a round is complete (i.e., the student in the hot seat has guessed the correct word), players will rotate so other students get a turn at the hot seat.
- Reflect and Discuss: After all students have had a chance to be in the hot seat, talk about the vocabulary words. Which ones were more difficult for you? Which were easy?

Extension Activity (optional):

- To challenge yourself and deepen your understanding of the vocabulary words, consider limiting the types or number of questions allowed by the person in the hot seat.