TEACHING METHODS
Puzzle Maker

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING:

- PRINT OUTS OF PUZZLE
- WRITING IMPLEMENTS

MATERIALS NEEDED FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING:

- POWERPOINT SLIDES WITH PUZZLE OR LINK TO ONLINE PUZZLE

EMPOWERING LEARNING:

- REINFORCE VOCABULARY
- INTRODUCE THEMES
- DEVELOP PROBLEM SOLVING
- MAINTAIN MENTAL ACUITY FOR ADULTS
- RELIEVE STRESS

DESCRIPTION

By using an on-line puzzle maker, you can create original, engaging word puzzles for students of all ages to enjoy. A variety of online puzzle making tools are available: some are free (for example, https://puzzlemaker.discoveryeducation.com); others require payment for access to the full capabilities of the program (https://wordmint.com).

INSTRUCTIONS FOR IN-PERSON TEACHING

Determine the teaching proposition for your lesson and consider what terms and ideas can be introduced and/or reinforced through a puzzle. Create a puzzle (cross-word, word search, cryptogram, word jumble, etc.) appropriate for your designated audience by using an online Puzzle Maker. Print the puzzle for your class and provide writing implements to complete the puzzle.

INSTRUCTIONS FOR VIRTUAL TEACHING

Determine the teaching proposition for your lesson and consider what terms and ideas can be introduced and/or reinforced through a puzzle. Create a puzzle (cryptogram and word jumble would work best online) using those terms for your designated audience. Copy and paste the puzzle into a PowerPoint slideshow to share during a virtual class. OR, using a puzzle maker like https://crosswordlabs.com, create a crossword puzzle that can be embedded into a website or shared via URL with students and completed online.

IDEAS FOR USING THIS METHOD

- Set out puzzles on tables while students gather or during fellowship dinners to introduce the theme and/or terms that will be discussed further in the lesson (ex. word search or word jumble)
- Reinforce or assess the lessons teaching proposition (ex. crossword)
- Encourage students to work together to solve puzzles or to create their own!
- Adapt for use with different age groups