

### **Artifact:**

#### Domain Three, Engaging Students in Learning

This artifact below is blurry, but it's an example of how I engage students in learning. For this class, we were reading the book, *Lord of The Flies*. When we were nearing the end of the book, I was trying to find a way to ensure students understood the various characters and their roles in the text. To do this, I came up with a game called, "Survivor". The premise was this. Students were broken up into 5 groups. Each group was a character from the book (Jack, Ralph, Piggy, etc...). The goal was for the group to argue and communicate as to why their character should stay on the island (like the game Survivor), and/or why other characters should be taken off the island.

For some time, students would gather evidence from the book for their arguments. The only way they could talk was two-fold. One, if they were provided the conch (a marker in the class), and two, if they were able to reference a specific quote in context from the text for everyone else to reference. For every legitimate argument, I would add a point for their group. By the end, the group with the most points got to stay on the island and won five extra credit points.

The extra credit and the opportunity to engage in groups and debate in class really got students involved. After each class, students would leave talking about their character. While in the halls days afterward, students were still giving arguments as to why their character should have stayed on the island. It was a fun and successful way of getting students involved in discussion while simultaneously meeting content needs, which helped them understand the text at a deeper level.

In my classes, I enjoy having many discussions. Whether it's through Socratic Seminars, large and small group discussions, think-pair-shares, or even live discussions online through Schoology. My belief is students need to be able to adequately communicate their thoughts and feelings, and in order to do so, I provide a variety of formats in which they can practice that.

