Categories-on-the-Wall

Purpose:

- Categories-on-the-Wall is a way for teachers to monitor their students' appropriation of new conceptual knowledge.
- Additionally, it is a way to reinforce a student's "ownership" of the new knowledge gained in a class period.

Scaffold:

- Text Re-presentation and Schema Building: allowing students to represent their knowledge of the task in a different format than the source text and providing a general format to organize new information.

Instructions:

- Distribute a card to a group of 2-4 students.
- Students discuss and determine where on the advanced graphic organizer the card best fits.
- Student(s) place card where they feel is correct. You can either have students explain their criteria for placing the card where they have or after all cards are posted you can have students discuss as a whole class.
- Justifications are part of the discussion, it is recommended that answers be written in complete thoughts, so a language frame or sentence starter is recommended for each question.
    - Before sharing out individually, students should have an opportunity to articulate their responses, thereby appropriating the academic language.
    - Recommended peer-to peer sharing structures: **3-step interview** with a **Round Robin,** or simply a **Round Robin.**
- After or while cards are being placed in the graphic organizer, students are filling out their blank graphic organizer.
    - If diagrams are part of the solution, ensure that all essential elements are present in student's organizer. Discuss what those elements are so that students are clear on the expectations.
    - After the activity is complete, have a peer-to peer sharing structures such as a **3-step interview** with a **Round Robin,** or simply a **Round Robin** compare the different methods for solving the problem or determining the correct category.
    - Optional: Students can add the graphic organizer into their interactive notebook if that is something that is supported in your classroom.

Tips and Variations:

- Works well with ALL grade, ALL courses.
- If you use Interactive Notebooks, students can divide a page into quadrants and record their work on a single page of the notebook.
- Use Kinsella's Language Frames for "Reporting a Partner's Idea," "Acknowledging Ideas," and "Expressing an Opinion."