

Connecting Concepts to Vocabulary: Semantic Associations

Directions

- Semantic associations help students expand vocabulary by building on words that share a common feature. The activity can be done as a class or individually, but always have it conclude with full-class discussion.
- Select a word or words related to HIV/AIDS issues.
- Write the word(s) on the board; for example: infection, treatment.
- Ask half the students to write as many things as they can think of that are related to “infection;” the other half will do the same with “treatment.” Students can work alone or in groups.
- Write the students’ lists on the board, compiling all associations under the headings “infection” and “treatment.”
- Have students use six of these words in sentences.
- Discuss any words that are new to any of the students.