

# Project PLACE News

Partnerships for Learning, Achievement, and Classroom Engagement  
Winter 2018/2019

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We want to share more of the great things Project PLACE teachers are doing in their classrooms as they are improving teaching and learning for all students, especially English learners. These are some recent postings and photographs from our Project PLACE closed Facebook group.

Please join our group below.



[Join our Facebook group](#)

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## Family Collaboration

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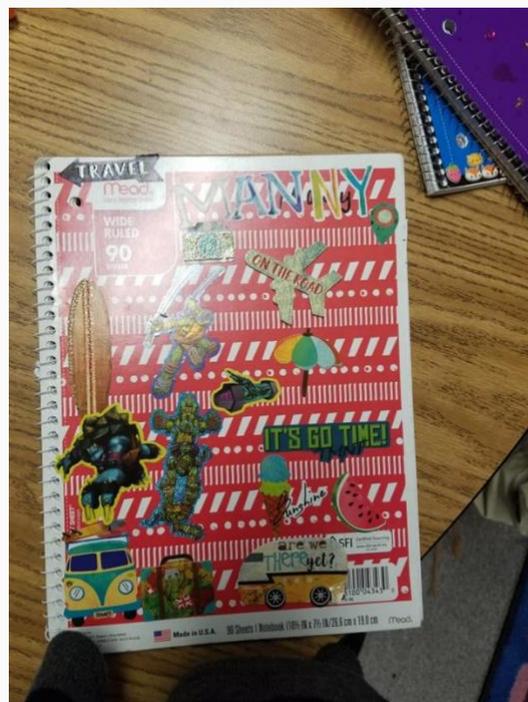
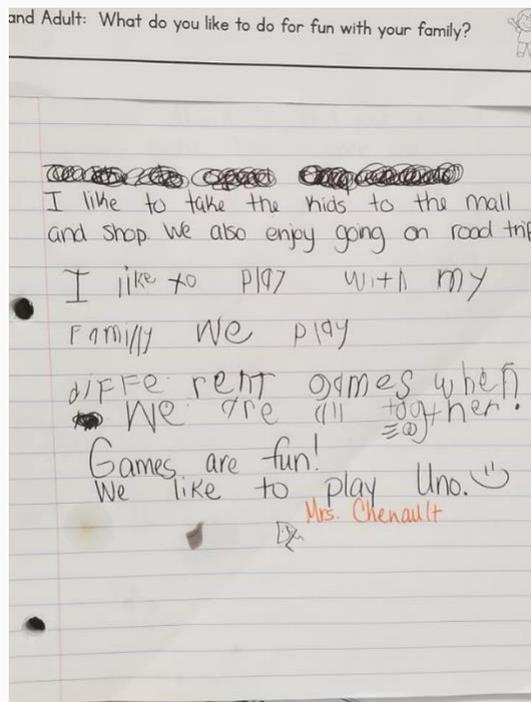
**Jill Robertson, Tates Creek Elementary, Fayette Co.**

*One of my students sharing the dolls she made with her mom. She said “we learned a lot of things in Africa and when we come to this country we made them here”. The other students were enthralled at her presentation and had wonderful questions!*

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**Stephanie Chenault, Eastern Elementary, Scott Co.**

*Stephanie Chenault has started implementing family journals. The students have personalized their journals and take them home every week. In some, the parents have written a note and the children add their own sentences. In others, the parents have helped their children write the sentences. This is such a terrific way to connect with families!*



**Instruction**

Teachers Using Generative Vocabulary Matrix (GVM)

**Erica Wachter, Eastern Elementary, Scott Co.**

*The students in Erica Wachter's first grade class have been studying animals and talking about how they live, grow and survive. The GVM is organized by habitat and by category. They have been using a text set to gather*

*information about various animals. They have worked on turning their notes into a writing piece and each will create a book they will share with a real audience.*

alons

Alligators are carnivores.

Alligators eat fish and turtles. They also eat some big animals like bears!

They live in rivers and lakes and other types of freshwater.

Their predators are us! But other animals eat their eggs.

eat fish and shrimp

have wings like flippers

live in the Arctic Ocean

Mom feeds the babies milk

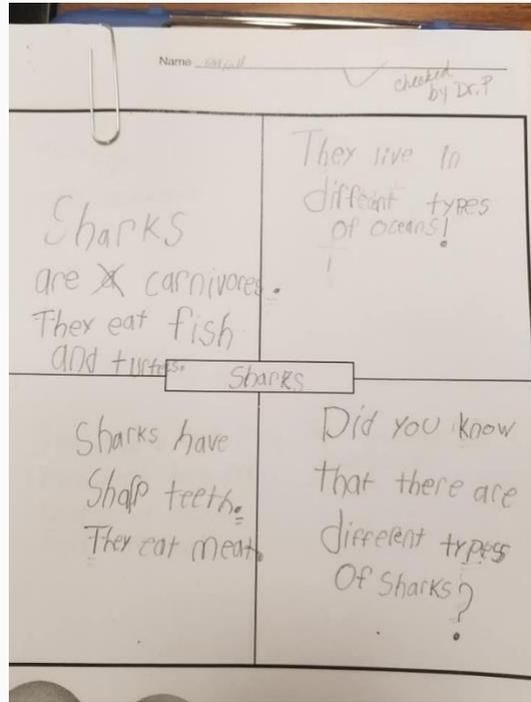
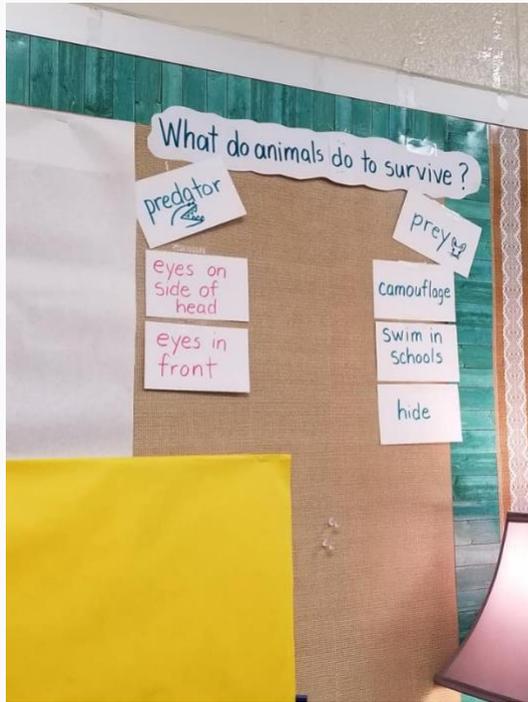
huddle to stay warm

Mom feeds them digested food

Can stand up as so as the are

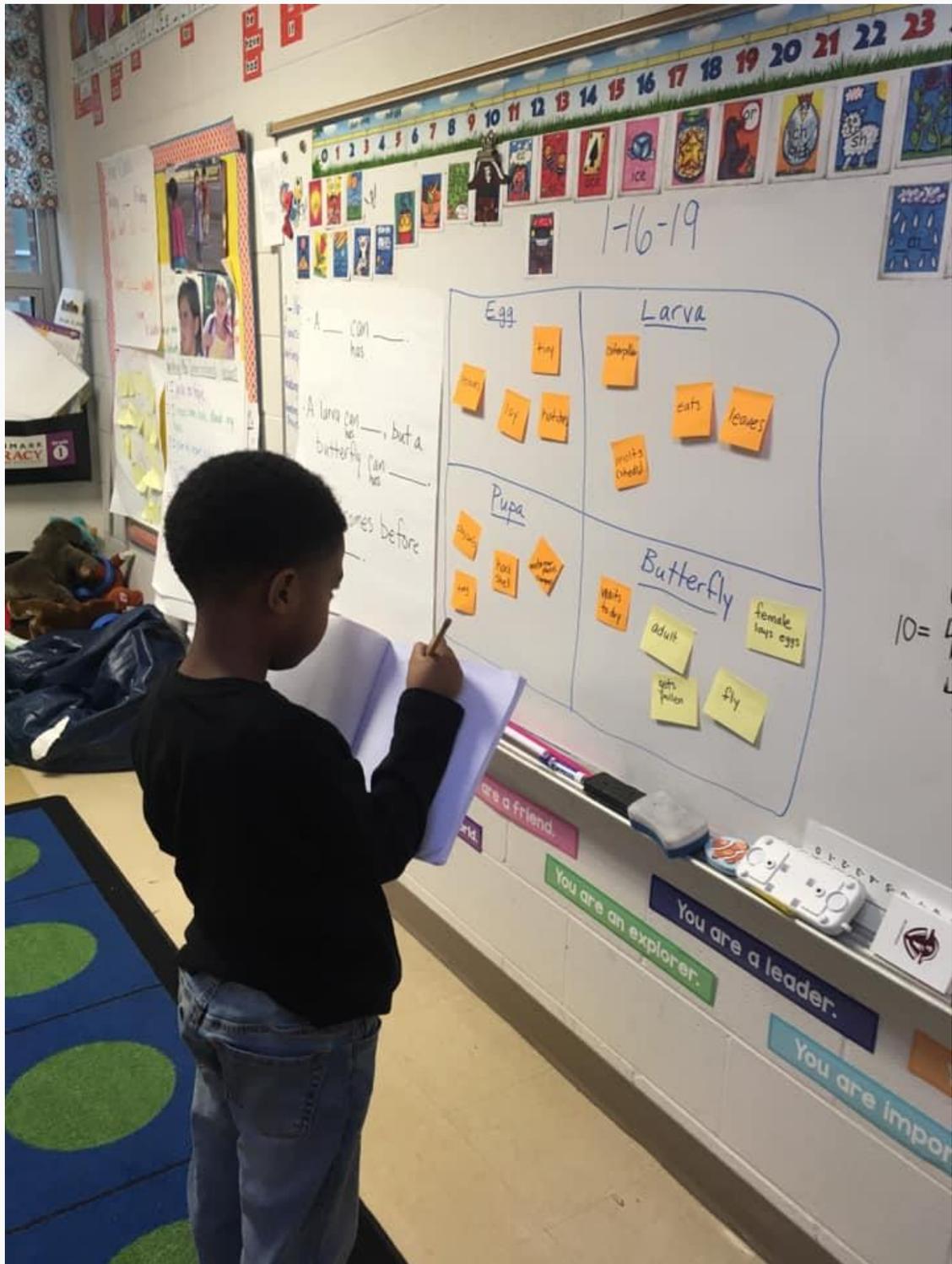
Alligators are carnivores.

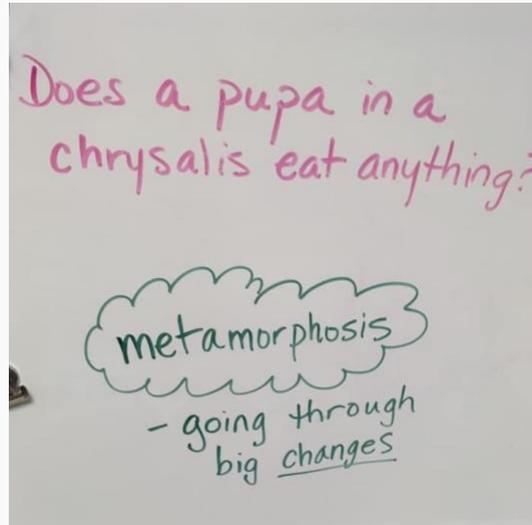




**Katie Walker, Mallorie Burton, and Kaye Cambron, Tates Creek Elementary, Fayette Co.**

*The Tates Creek Elementary crew has really rocked the [GVMs](#)! First graders in Katie Walker and Mallorie Burton's classes talked about the life cycle of the butterfly, while Kaye Cambron's second graders talked about climates. The kids had a great time learning "smarty-pants science words" and writing about their knowledge!*

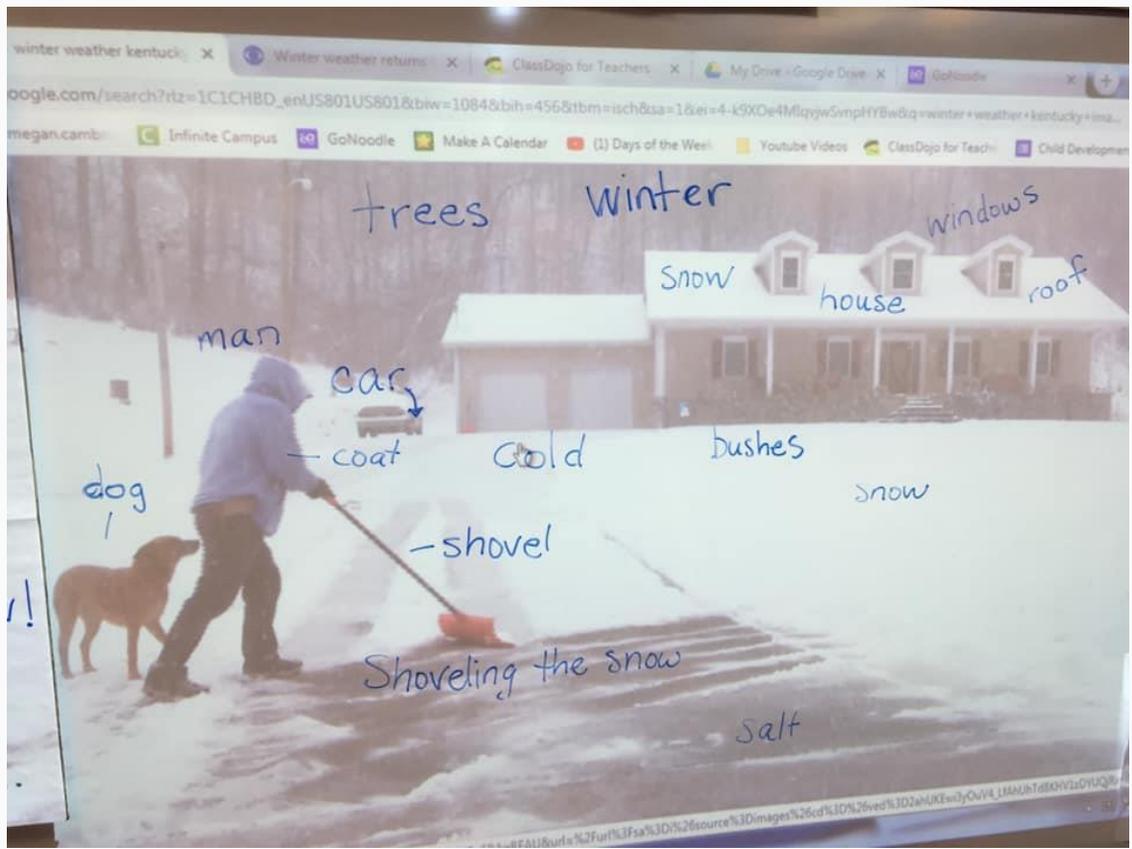


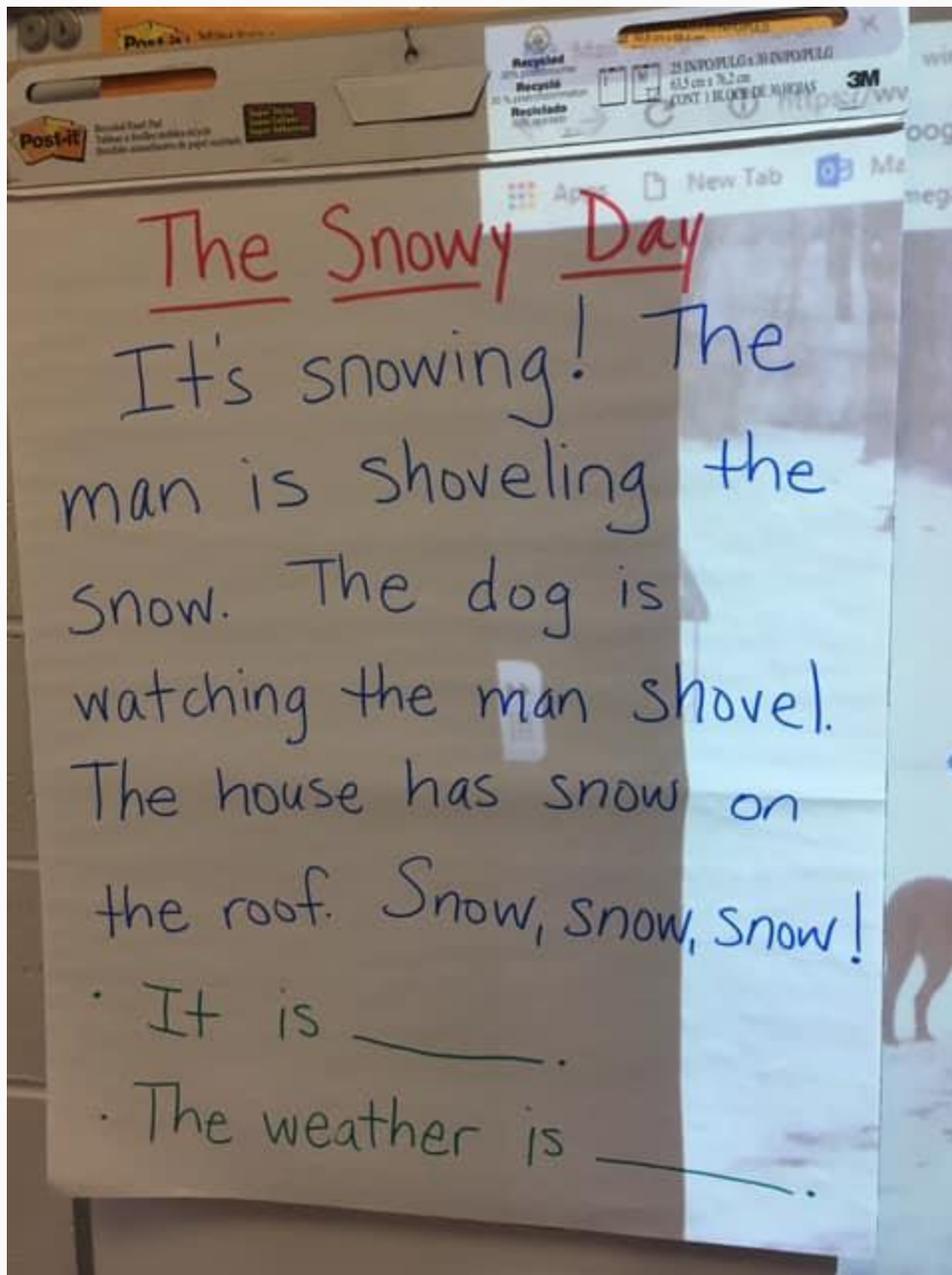


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**Megan Cambron, Bates Creek Elementary, Fayette Co.**

*Megan Cambron's kindergartners have done great writing based on the [Picture Word Induction Method](#) and sentence stems.*

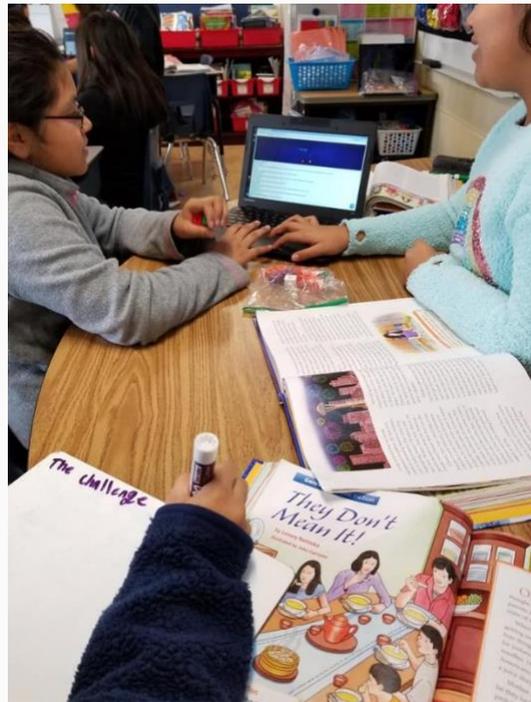




Discourse



**Ryan Arbuckle, Russell Cave Elementary, Fayette Co.**  
*Students in Mr. Arbuckle's fifth grade "built towers" as they contributed to conversations. Each student had to use at least one cube as they added on to the discussion. They also recorded their conversations using chromebooks to hold them accountable for using [accountable talk](#). :)*



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**Aimee Hicks Graham, Tates Creek Middle, Fayette Co.**  
*Aimee Graham used [Write Around](#) to engage students in conversations about the US Constitution. What a great way to incorporate writing, talk, and movement!*

# ANNOTATIONS

- 1) Underline what is important.
- 2) Circle what you don't understand.
- 3) Questions, comments, & connections in the margins.

## Good comments:

- \* I didn't realize...
- \* That's funny!
- \* Interesting b/c...

## Good connections:

- \* I remember...
- \* This is just like...
- \* I read...

## Good questions:

- \* How did they...?
- \* What is this connected to...
- \* Why did this...

## GENERAL RULE:

- \* one comment OR question OR connection per paragraph.

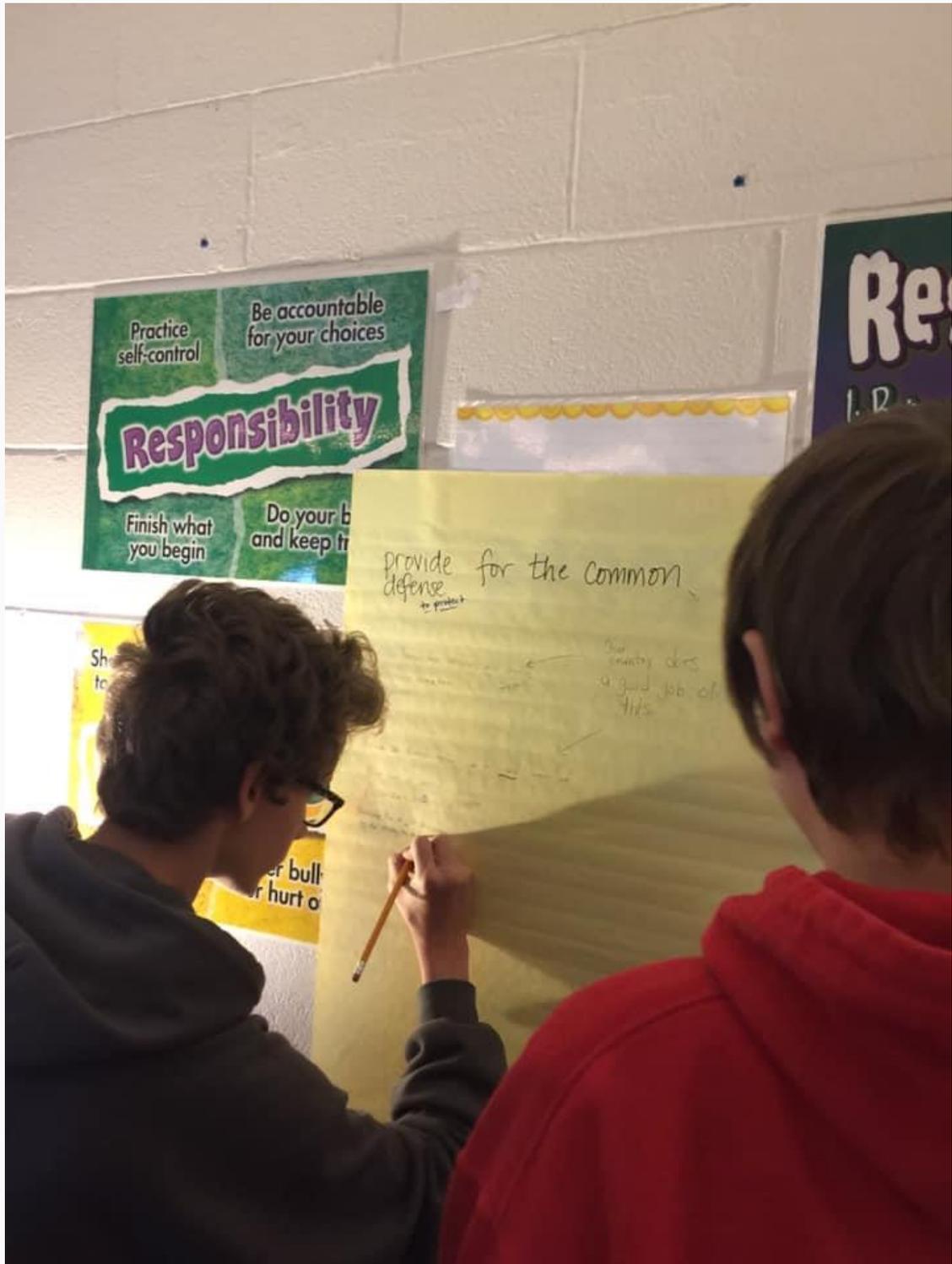
secure the blessing of liberty  
to ourselves and our posterity  
generations

agree

I agree

agree

agree



## Critical Consciousness

**Margot Schenning, Cassidy Elementary, Fayette Co.**

*These third grade students researched and wrote letters about their concerns for the use of single-use plastics in the school. Each student read his or her letter to their Principal and Cafeteria Manager and then had a chance to discuss possible solutions to this global problem.*

## Shared Online Resources

The Office of English Language Acquisition has put together a Family Toolkit, and it's also available in Spanish, Arabic, and Chinese! The intro and 1st two chapters are available now, and the remaining chapters are coming soon.

<https://ncela.ed.gov/family-toolkit>

### **Families Support Their Children Who Are Dual Language Learners**

Here's a great list of things you can share with parents -- in many languages, including Spanish and Arabic

<https://eclkc.ohs.acf.hhs.gov/culture-language/article/families-support-their-children-who-are-dual-language-learners>



### 10 Ways to Value ELs' Language Assets

This quick read offers 10 ways to value language learners' assets in the classroom. This would be a great resource to share with others at your school, too!

<https://tonyasinger.com/valueellanguageassets/>

### **Building relationships with preschool parents, one conversation at a time**

Although this article is about preschool families, the Family Language Interview they describe could be easily adapted for elementary or middle school families. Looks like a great technique for learning about families' goals for language development!

<https://edsource.org/2018/building-relationships-with-preschool-parents-one-conversation-at-a-time/603908>

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For middle-school teachers - this article has strategies for teaching reading to middle-level ELs.

<https://www.middleweb.com/39224/what-if-my-middle-level-el-student-cant-read/>



Did you know? Cohort 2 Project PLACE Teachers serve around 180 English Learners with home languages including Arabic, Swahili, Kirwandan, Spanish, French, Mandarin, Japanese, Punjabi, and Nepali

Project PLACE has a new website!

Project



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