

### **3-2-1**

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3-2-1 is a strategy that aids reflection by providing a structure for students to summarize, organize and integrate what they are learning. When asked what they learned, students are often at a loss as to where to begin explaining their thinking. 3-2-1 helps by giving them prompts to jump start the process of reflecting. The strategy may be used as an admit or exit ticket. It may also be used to promote reflective dialogue by small groups of students.

#### **How to implement the strategy (Summarizing):**

1. After a learning experience, provide students with prompts similar to the following:
  - 3 things I learned today
  - 2 things I found interesting
  - 1 question I still have
2. Students may write their responses on index cards and turn them in as exit tickets. They may also be asked to complete their 3-2-1s as a brief homework assignment to be used as an admit ticket the next time class meets.
3. If the strategy is used to promote reflective dialogue, the teacher may choose to do one of the following:
  - a. Ask students to stand, locate a partner, and share their 3-2-1s.
  - b. Turn to an elbow partner and share.
  - c. Form small groups of students who share their 3-2-1s with each other. Students may add the thoughts shared by peers to their own 3-2-1s.

Note: The prompts may be varied to fit the content or topic being studied. For example:

- 3 parts and functions of plants
- 2 things plants need to be healthy
- 1 way Earth would be affected if there were no plants

#### **Adapted from:**

- Garmston, R. & Wellman, B. (2009). *The Adaptive School: A Sourcebook for Developing Collaborative Groups*, 2<sup>nd</sup> Ed. Norwood MA. Christopher-Gordon Publishers, Inc.