

★ Minimize Threats & Distractions



Day 114 **Make A Moment**

If we think about our own schooling career, it's hard to recall most lessons. When we do remember a learning experience, it's typically a moment from that lesson that stands out--holding a snake during a study of reptiles, learning to jitterbug as we are introduced to the Harlem Renaissance, or arriving at a classroom "book tasting" to find faux candles and checkered tablecloths on desks. In their popular book, *The Power of Moments*, Chip and Dan Heath (2017) discuss the magic of these memories. They explore why certain experiences stay with us and how to create more of these special moments in our lives and in our lessons.

According to the Heath brothers, there are several ways to make moments. One is to focus on pride. You can celebrate group and individual achievements with students and allow them to share special skills or areas of expertise with the class.

Moments can also be made with elevation. Elevate by boosting the sensory appeal of an experience as in the aforementioned example of the thoughtfully planned book tasting. You can also elevate by adding a game or goal of some kind. A band director might get her students to work hard on a complex piece if they know they may secure a spot in their city's holiday parade and a business education teacher might challenge students to use their marketing knowledge to double profits in the school store. Surprises also work as an elevation tool. Kick off a unit on WWII by co-teaching with a "DJ" (a student volunteer) who plays song clips (e.g., "Boogie Woogie Bugle Boy") during your lesson. Get a hamster for your first-graders to teach them about living things.

Connection can "make moments" too. You might call each student at home during the year to review their strengths in math class or make a content-related meal for students' families to celebrate the end of the semester.