Exclusion Brainstorming

Here is a great alternative to the same old look it up in the dictionary approach to pre-teaching vocabulary. It is also a nice variation on traditional brainstorming.

➢ Choose a list of words that appear in the material (extbook chapter, video, novel…) that the students will encounter. Add several other words that may not appear in the selection.

➢ After giving students a brief introduction to the topic, for example "Migrant Farm Workers Struggle for Civil Rights," have students work in pairs or cooperative groups to decide which words they expect to find in the selection and which they don't. Students cross out (exclude) the words they feel don't belong.

➢ More important than their choices-there is not necessarily a right or wrong answer—is the thinking and discussion about why word may or may not appear in the selection and the vocabulary and concept development that this promotes.

➢ This is a great pre-reading activity to activate prior knowledge and for building abackground and vocabulary. Exclusion brainstorming encourages students to make predictions and to confirm or adjust their hypothesis. Students can revisit their list after they read the material to see whether their predictions held true.

➢ Talking about what words fit, how words they didn't anticipate did find their way into a text on this topic, and how common words may have taken on different meanings in relation to this topic offer rich language learning experiences for ELLs.

Migrant Farm Workers Struggle for Civil Rights

Mexican Americans	circuit	seasonal
Cesar Chavez	voting	Chicano Movement
Rules	quiet	judge
Latinos	harvest	California
Crops	prejudice	wages
Injustice	fields	grapes
Protest	Huelga	labor camp
Pesticides	Martin Luther King	conditions

Directions: Cross out the words you don't think will be found in this selection and circle the words you think you will find.