

## Ramp It Up!

### Objectives

- To build background or review prior learning
- To review text for key concepts and meaning
- To arrange content into a meaningful structure
- As a pre-writing activity

**Grade/Class** \_\_\_\_\_

**Time** Varies according to grade level and content

**Grouping** Whole class

**Materials Matrix** background with column and row headings, content written on paper

### Instructions

1. Give students an overview of the organization of the matrix by explaining the column and row headings.
2. Pass out the content pieces
3. Allow students 5 minutes to walk around and talk with the other students. They should try to figure out where their piece will go, as well as, get the gist of the matrix.
4. Students return to their seats and begin to Ramp It Up!
5. Two students will stand on each side of the matrix throughout the activity.
6. One student places their piece on the matrix at a time explaining why they think it should go in that particular square. That student sits and another student ramps it up.
7. If someone has placed a piece where you think yours should go, you may move it to another spot. However, you must justify both the reason you are placing your piece where it belongs and why you are moving the other piece.
8. When all the pieces are placed, give the students a copy of the finished matrix. The students use that copy to check their work, and make changes if necessary.

### Extension

After completing the matrix, divide the class into groups forming one group per column. The students summarize the contents of that column and present the key words or phrases to the rest of the students. These matrices also make super writing starters. The students can write a descriptive paper using a column, or a compare and contrast paper using a row. These matrices can also be built over time, adding and changing content as the class learns.

