

Look and See

Can You Find the Pencil?

Overview: Challenge students to find a common object, a pencil, hidden in plain sight. This activity makes the important point that one should not observe with pre-conceived expectations.

Materials: 1 yellow #2 pencil

Time: 5 – 10 minutes

Action:

- Circle Up in a grassy area.
- Walk the inside of the circle showing everyone the pencil. You are going to hide the pencil somewhere in the circle and their challenge is to find it.
- Ask students to turn around with their backs to the center, close their eyes and wait as you hide the pencil somewhere inside the circle.
- Walk around the circle making scuffing sounds – and stick the pencil behind your ear. Be sure to stay inside the circle.
- Give the signal for everyone to turn around to look for the pencil, BUT they may not move from where they are standing.
- When students find the pencil, they should not divulge the location but simply raise a hand. Help keep it a secret.
- As students search the grass, walk throughout the circle so everyone has an opportunity to see you as you challenge them to find that pencil.

Management Strategies: Almost all students will study the grassy area looking for the pencil, seldom glancing at you. Divulge the location when many have seen the pencil, being careful not to embarrass a lone student who has not seen the pencil.

Discuss lessons learned: Look up, Look down, Look all around. Think outside the box. And most important: Don't observe with preconceived notions.

