packback
Fearlessly curious.

Overview: Looking for a powerful exercise to kick off a new unit, concept, or quarter? Using Packback, you can build a digital "Wonder Wall" with your students to activate their curiosity for new content.

Learning Objective or Goal (Applicable Common Core Standard):
CCSS.ELA-LITERACY.CCRA.W.6
In this lesson, students will examine artifacts related to new course content and develop open-ended questions about the material.

Approximate Time: 30-45 minutes

Prep, set up, and/or materials needed before class:

- Collect 5-6 "artifacts" that relate to the new content. They could be physical objects, photos, quotes, letters, articles, videos, audio clips, or even past projects from former students in the class.
- Place the different artifacts in stations around the room. This can be at a group of desks, hanging from the wall, etc. Setup the classroom so students can move around easily from station to station.
- If you haven't already, you can create deadlines and posting requirements in Packback, including selecting a minimum curiosity score for posts to receive credit. Depending on your LMS, you may also want a new assignment detailing the expectations of the assignment. *Did you know your students' Packback scores can automatically sync with your gradebook? Reach out to your Curriculum Consultant to get set up!*

Activity
- Begin by framing the intention for students: why are we doing this? What is the end product? If possible, show them an example of what the final product of the activity will be (a Packback post). Explain the set up of the activity and the expectations.
- Students will then quietly move through the stations around the room, spending about 3 minutes at each station. A notetaker to help them collect their thoughts can be helpful.
- Once students have moved through all the stations, everyone takes their seats. Review the expectations for Packback post once again. A think-pair-share about what you're curious about could be impactful as they talk with a peer before starting on Packback.
- Then, give students 15 minutes to write their questions on Packback. These should be open-ended questions (this might be a new concept for students and may require some modeling!). If further scaffolding is helpful, you can provide these question frames:
- How does….
- Why might….
- How does _____ relate to / connect to _____
- In their description, they should include some background information to help their classmates understand where they're coming from. Some sentence starters to help:

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- I wonder….
- I am curious about this because…
- *Now you have a goldmine of student-driven questions as you teach this content!* Feature a few posts that meet your academic expectations.
- Keep revisiting these questions as a knowledge check or to practice dialogue across peers. At the end of the unit/content, some teachers use these questions in Socratic Seminars, others like to circle back at the end of the unit and have students respond with their thoughts.