

USE OR LOSE: THE RELEVANCE OF WINDOW CARDS IN TEACHING HIGH SCHOOL

by:

Roderick M. Malay

Teacher II, Luakan National High School

Solving simple equations and mathematical problem like Algebra and Geometry in Junior High School involved combining fundamental operations. The fundamental operations in mathematics such as addition, subtraction, multiplication, and division are essential for understanding complex lessons especially in high school mathematics.

So, what happened when students did not master the four fundamental operations during their elementary years? Do we proceed with the lesson even without the mastery of the basic operation or do we used additional tool or reinforcement as a supplement to their learning deficiencies?

One tool that the elementary teachers used is window cards. Typically, window cards are made from paper or cardboard and have "windows" cut out, allowing students to focus on answering basic fundamental operations. These cards are easy-to-use, adaptable, and versatile materials that may be customized for various age and skill levels.

According to the research conducted by Resentes (2019), majority of the students have generally accepted the original plan of window card technique as per the result of Post-test which showed that students in Grade 8 have improved their performance on the issue of integers from Below Average (B-Ave) to Excellent (EXL).

Moreover, the window card technique has significantly improved the level of performance of Grade 8 students in Mathematics particularly on integers after the use of window card technique in their lesson.

Other advantages of using window card in teaching learning process were reinforced memory and retention, improved focus, and attention and cost-effective and versatile. The repetitive use of window cards helps reinforce key concepts, operations, and processes, improving retention over time. In addition, the hands-on nature of window cards reduces distractions, keeping students focused on the task.

While window cards are a valuable teaching tool, they do have some limitations. One factor is in larger classrooms, managing the distribution and collection of window cards can be quite challenging. Also, advanced students or students from the special programs might outgrow the benefits of window cards quickly, needing more challenging materials. If not used correctly, window cards might emphasize memorization over attention.

While window cards have some disadvantages, the benefits can still make them a worthwhile addition to teaching mathematics in junior high school settings.

In conclusion, incorporating window cards into teaching is still relevant and can significantly enhance the learning experience, making math more accessible, engaging, and enjoyable for junior high school students.

References:

Resentes, Arcela G. 2019. "The Effect of Using Window Card Technique in Improving the Performance of Grade 8 Students". retrieved from <https://iopscience.iop.org/article/10.1088/1742-6596/1254/1/012055/pdf>