“Bitter Words for Beer” Anticipation Guide

Created by Emily Holden of Oregon State University

Description
“Bitter Words for Beer” details the work of Tom Shellhammer as he develops a new vocabulary to describe the flavor of beer that would serve as a basis for communication across an entire industry. He has trained a panel of taste-testers to document all of the sensory experiences that make up taste. These techniques are being applied across a wide variety of food industries and provide opportunities for vocabulary enriching and tasty classroom experiences.

The “Bitter Words for Beer” Anticipation Guide will increase students’ literacy and comprehension skills. The anticipation guide will activate prior knowledge, give students a direction for their reading and raise curiosity. Completing the guide encourages students to reach a higher level of Bloom’s Taxonomy of Cognitive Thinking and allows teachers to recognize and address student misconceptions about the food testing industry.

The Anticipation Guide is a series of questions or statements about the article that students use to indicate agreement or disagreement. After reading the article, they may change or maintain their position, citing evidence from the text.

Time Estimate
One 45- to 50-minute Class period

Student Outcomes and Objectives
• Students will investigate the importance of a large, shared vocabulary.
• Students will examine the process by which products are taste-tested.

Standards
Language Arts
EL.HS.RE.01: Read at an independent and instructional reading level appropriate to grade level.
EL.HS.RE.02: Read and understand a wide variety of informational text.
EL.HS.RE.03: Make connections to the text.
EL.HS.RE.05: Match reading to purpose.
EL.HS.RE.06: Understand and use a variety of comprehension strategies as needed such as summarizing, class and group discussions and making predictions.
EL.HS.RE.08: Understand, learn and use new vocabulary that is taught through informational text.
EL.HS.RE.15: Read magazines and news stories.
EL.HS.RE.19: Identify and summarize sequence of events, main ideas, facts, supporting details and opinions.
EL.HS.RE.20: Clarify understanding of informational texts by creating graphic organizers.

Career-Related Learning Standards
CS.PM.02: Plan, organize, and complete assigned tasks on time, meeting standards of quality.
CS.HS.01: Locate, process and convey information using traditional tools.
Materials

- Copies of “Bitter Words for Beer” from the 2009 issue of *Oregon’s Agricultural Progress* magazine, a special issue on Food in Oregon
- Copies of the “Bitter Words for Beer” anticipation guide.

Vocabulary

**Fermentation:** The process by which something is broken down by bacteria or yeast. It is commonly used in the production of beer and wine.

**Palate:** The range of tastes that a person can sense.
“Bitter Words for Beer” Anticipation Guide Procedure

1) Hand out the anticipation guide to students.
2) Have students complete the left side of the guide before reading.
3) Hand out the copies of the “Bitter Words for Beer” article.
4) Instruct students to read the article and take additional notes as they go.
5) Conduct a discussion where you compare before-and-after results.
   a. Try to focus your discussion on evidence provided in the text.
## “Bitter Words for Beer” Anticipation Guide

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Before Reading: Agree or Disagree</th>
<th>Statement</th>
<th>After Reading: Agree or Disagree</th>
<th>Evidence and Support</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Having a shared vocabulary that is large and varied is important to a society. Why?</td>
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<td>Describing food in more ways than “good” or “bad” is important. Why?</td>
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<td>Flavor is made up of what we see, taste and smell. Why?</td>
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<td>Anyone can be paid to be a taste-tester. Why?</td>
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*Adapted from Dr. Travis Park of Cornell University*
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<td>Having a shared vocabulary that is large and varied is important to a society. Why?</td>
<td>agree</td>
<td>Unless society understands the meaning of words, they are useless.</td>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Establishing a beer flavor wheel provides industry and consumers with a vocabulary for communication.</td>
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<td>Describing food in more ways than “good” or “bad” is important. Why?</td>
<td>agree</td>
<td>Food products can be improved if food scientists focus on precise characteristics.</td>
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<td>Flavor encompasses more than just taste. Why?</td>
<td>agree</td>
<td>Flavor also includes: odor, tactile, kinesthetic, temperature and pain.</td>
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<td>Shellhammer uses trained testers that have developed a refined palate.</td>
<td>disagree</td>
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<td>Anyone can be paid to be a beer taste-tester. Why?</td>
<td>disagree</td>
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