

# OCTOBER LITERACY

## TIP

From the desk of your Literacy Coach

MS. CUTHBERTSON  
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# AN EXPLAINER ON EXPLAINING

*not*

## VAGUENESS

Using unclear sets of words or words that are uncertain will clutter an explanation. Researchers have manipulated vagueness and consistently find that it interferes with learning

## MAZES

Mazes are false starts and the use of redundant words. They also include utterances such as "uh" and "um". They're probably called mazes because it feels like navigating a maze of incoherence from the learner's perspective

## DISCONTINUITY

We shouldn't add extra content or mention relevant content at inappropriate times. Discontinuity leads to a loss of lesson momentum - the pace feels off.

## SEDUCTIVE DETAILS

These are interesting and even entertaining pieces of information that distract from the main message. Humorous and unrelated pictures and tangents should be cut from explanations

## How *should* you explain concepts?



**PRESENT MATERIAL IN SMALL STEPS**



**PAUSES FOR THINK TIME**



**PAIR WORDS WITH ILLUSTRATIONS**



**NARRATIVE STRUCTURE**

**Need help with this strategy?**

ask Daneen  
cuthbertson.daneen@  
Brevardsschools.org  
x21590

**INPUT OUTPUT**



Source: Zach Groshell  
@MrZachG on Twitter

And it's always a good idea to alternate between presenting information and having students do something with the information. This allows you to hold attention and check for understanding so you can re-explain if needed. Do this at a perky pace.