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Making Science Relevant in Chemistry

By Stephanie Stone, Carnegie Vanguard HS – Houston ISD

Project, Strategy, Method or Activity: DIIMSA® Pics-Fair (Science Concept to Picture Fair) Project.

Synopsis: I use the classroom version of the DIIMSA® Pics-Fair Project. Each year I assign it as project, *Making Science Relevant in Chemistry*. Students are able to capture a scene based on learned concepts in chemistry and support it with a given hypothesis, description and background information on how their scene applies to chemistry.

Teacher Observations: Most of my students get very excited about the open-ended portion of the assignment while others want more direction. Some students want me to tell them if a certain idea would be correct and I always remind them that there must be a chemistry explanation. Also, I have to be aware of the students who want to perform cropping or editing of their work, which is not allowed in this project. I think this is key because it keeps their work unique and authentic.

I like doing this project because it forces students to take a picture from their context of understanding and not just searching on a term and downloading a random image with descriptions and just turn it in. This forces students to really understand and research the concept or topic they have decided to present. Ultimately it provides a strong emotional attachment to the work the student has done.