

About LISELL Lesson Starters

➤ **What are LISELL Lesson Starters?**

LISELL Lesson Starters are very short activities (~10 minutes) for students that highlight one of the three LISELL science inquiry practices (controlling variables; coordinating hypothesis, observation and evidence; explaining cause and effect relationships) and/or one of the two LISELL academic language practices (use of general academic vocabulary; the academic language of science). Some lesson starters are linked to specific science content topics for 6th, 7th or 8th grade and others are on more general topics. We have now developed and distributed the 2011-2012 Lesson Starters to teachers.

➤ **What is the purpose of LISELL Lesson Starters?**

LISELL Lesson Starters should be used as warm up activities at the start of a class period or as “filler” activities if you have 10 extra minutes at the end of a period. The purpose is to engage students in thinking about the LISELL inquiry and academic language practices without detracting significantly from the class time teachers need to address other lesson objectives. LISELL lesson starters support higher order thinking, scientific problem solving and oral and written communication using academic language.

➤ **How often should I use LISELL Lesson Starters?**

We believe that if you consistently use LISELL lesson starters twice per week, you will see a difference in your students’ abilities to make use of science inquiry practices and academic language.

➤ **Who Creates LISELL Lesson Starters?**

LISELL Lesson Starters are created by LISELL project staff and LISELL project teachers. LISELL students and families may also be involved in the creation of lesson starters in the future. Please feel free to create your own lesson starters and share them with the rest of the LISELL team!

➤ **What are the Characteristics of a good LISELL Lesson Starter?**

A good LISELL Lesson Starter should focus clearly and explicitly on one of the LISELL inquiry or academic language practices. It

should be short enough to truly be used as a lesson warm up or filler activity. It should include questions that require students to work together to think and respond, orally or in writing, in ways that develop academic communication and science inquiry skills.

- What are the **bold words** in LISELL Lesson Starters?
The **bold words** indicate words from the Academic Word List (AWL) that are the basis for the LISELL General-Purpose Academic Vocabulary words. Not all of the bold words are from the LISELL Academic Word List sets, but they are all examples of high-frequency general-purpose academic vocabulary.