**MYSTERY IN THE CHECKS: Teacher Notes**

***Rationale for doing this activity:***

1. An excellent analogy to the process of science. Lots to discuss in this regard.

2. A non-threatening task that gets students comfortable interacting in their groups. Allows them to practice norms.

3. It is SO much fun. Students really get into it.

***Timing:***  One full (55 minute) period.

***Directions for the activity:*** (student directions are on the powerpoint)

1. Before beginning the activity remind students of the norms and establish that they are to follow the norms throughout the activity.

2. Let them know that they may encounter things on the checks that they are unfamiliar with but they will have to do the best they can to interpret them. You will not tell them! For example, many of them do not know what N.O.W. stands for. I suppose they might look something up on their phones if you are willing to let them use phones in class but I've never done that.

3. I usually give them 3-4 minutes per set of checks to discuss and write depending on how much time I have. They will need more time to finalize their story and write it on paper.

4. I provide white boards and markers for them to write their interim stories on. The final story needs to be on paper in case we don't get a chance to read them that day.

5. Either have students read (or you read) their stories aloud.

6. Discuss (some questions you might want to explore are on the ppt.)

7. Enjoy!!