Bulletin Board Dash:

Bulletin Board Dash is a strategy to help teach students how to derive a definition for a key word from contextual clues. In this strategy the teacher provides a block of text or a passage for the students to read. Within the text will be bolded key words that the students are being introduced to. This strategy makes learning the vocabulary a motivating and fun competition among students.

The students are broken up into small groups to read the passage. Each group is given a packet and told to begin reading, and to pay attention to the bolded or highlighted key words. After the group finishes the reading, they have to race to the back of the room. They will then go to the chart that corresponds to their group number. On the chart, the key words will be posted. The students then have to match the definitions provided in a folder under the chart to the correct word by using the information from the text. The students will therefore be defining the word based off of the context clues from the reading. The definitions will have Velcro on the back of them in order to attach the definition next to the correct word.

After they have completed the matching, the students must summarize the reading passage in one sentence. An example would be to summarize the beginnings of the Cold War in a sentence. This sentence could say, “The Cold War began with an outbreak of tensions between the United States and Soviet Union competing to expand their power and ideologies within Europe which would later spread throughout the world.” This process would help to summarize the activities of the day, and give the students one main idea to hold onto along with the vocabulary from the lesson.

Once the assignment is completed, the class will go over each group’s work. The group that was completed first and has all the correct information will win a prize. The prize can be bonus points, a homework pass or piece of candy. This provides an additional motivation and increases the competition within the classroom.

The strategy helps to motivate the class while also making the vocabulary words the main focus of the lesson. The completion of the chart and sentence summary helps the teacher assess the students’ comprehension of the lesson. Completion of the chart shows understanding of the vocabulary words through contextual clues, while the sentence shows overall comprehension of the subject matter in the lesson.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_ Date: \_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

Ms. Narracci Per.\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_\_

**Bulletin Board Dash**

Directions: In groups of four, you will read the following passage on the Cold War. Throughout the passage key words will be bolded. Once your group has completed the reading, you will go to the bulletin board in the back of the room. Go to the chart that corresponds to your group’s number. On the chart, match the key words to their definition based on what you learned during the reading. Then the groups will write a one sentence summary on the Cold War in the space provided under your chart. The first group done will receive a prize. *Ready, Set, Go!!!!!*

*The Cold War – The Beginnings…*

At the end of World War II, the world erupted in a struggle for power between the two new leading superpowers and former allies, the United States and the Soviet Union. This war would last from 1949 to 1991 without a single shot fired directly between the two leading nations. The war was categorized by antagonism, rivalry, an arms race, and suspicion between the communist and **free worlds**. This was the **Cold War**.

At the end of the war, Soviet troops were stationed throughout Eastern Europe. It was decided at the Yalta Conference in February 1945, that in order for Soviet support in the Pacific, Stalin would retain control over the areas his troops were stationed in at the end of the war. Stalin promised to hold free elections but United States President Franklin Delano Roosevelt and English Prime Minister Winston Churchill knew that this would not occur. However, the West or **Free World** did not want to cause the eruption of another devastating war after they had ended World War II, so they agreed to Stalin’s terms. These nations in Eastern Europe became Soviet satellites and fell to communism. This division of Europe became known as the **Iron Curtain** in 1946.

Stalin did not stop there, he wanted to spread communism throughout the world. His first attempt was to spread communism throughout the rest of the war-torn Europe, starting with Greece and Turkey. However, the United States was determined to stop the spread of communism to other nations and to become the defender of the **free world**. The United States adopted the policy of **containment** to stop the expansion of communism economically, politically and militarily. The United States decided to bolster any country that was under the communist threat. The first step taken in this policy of **containment** was to come to the aid of Greece and Turkey.

The United States decided to aid Greece and Turkey economically through the **Truman Doctrine** in 1947. The **Truman Doctrine** gave Greece and Turkey $400 million in aid to support their democratic regimes against communist infiltration. The aid was given in the form of money, economic and military advisors, and military equipment. This aid helped to stabilize the governments in both Greece and Turkey, keeping these nations from falling to communism and also providing new allies from the United States.

After securing Greece and Turkey, the United States turned its attention to the rest of Western Europe. Since the end of World War II, Europe had been a mess. There were terrible winters, droughts, and an economic depression. Traces of communist ideologies were being discovered in the Western European governments, especially in Italy and France. The United States did not want to lose Western Europe to communism, so they initiated the European Recovery Program, better known as the **Marshall Plan**.

The **Marshall Plan** was implemented in 1948, was designed to make sure that Western Europe recovered from the war and became the United States ally. This aid package was designed to specifically provide the aid that Western Europe needed most. The plan called for Western European nations to come together and develop a list of items or goods that they needed to “jump-start” the economy. Businesses within the United States would then make the goods, and ship them over to Western Europe. In total, the United States sent $17 billion worth of goods to Western Europe. The **Marshall Plan** worked. The economies in the Western European nations started to move again, strengthening international trade and Western Europe’s ties with the United States.

However, Stalin would not give up. His next move would be on Berlin, Germany. After the war, Germany was broken into four **occupation zones**. Each **occupation zone** was held by one of the major powers, the United States, England, France and the Soviet Union. The capital city of Berlin was also divided into four **occupation zones**, but Berlin was inside the Soviet **occupation zone**. West Germany and Western Berlin were capitalistic and democratic areas whereas Eastern Germany and East Berlin were under communist rule. Problems erupted in May to June 1948, when the United States, England and France tried to combine their German holding to form the country of West Germany which would become a democratic nation.

Stalin was extremely unhappy with this idea, and decided to cut off West Berlin from West Germany by creating a blockage. Stalin’s blockage cut off railroad lines, roads, and all other routes from West Berlin to West Germany. The population of 2.5 million in West Berlin was stranded. They could not reach work, and shortly they began to run out of supplies within the city. The United States was forced to come to West Berlin’s aid.

Instead of engaging in an armed conflict with Stalin, which would have resulted in another war, United States President Harry Truman started the **Berlin Airlift**. During the airlift, United States and English planes flew over Stalin’s blockage to deliver all the supplies the people of West Berlin needed. The planes made over 278,000 flights, which delivered over 13,000 tons of goods each day to the people of West Berlin. The supplies included machinery, medicine, clothing, fuel, and food. After a year of the effective airlift, Stalin withdrew the blockage in May 1949. Stalin’s defeat led to the unification of West Germany as a democratic nation firmly attached to the United States.

However, by 1949, the **Cold War** was just starting to heat up. Still yet to come would be conflicts between the United States and Soviet Union in nations around the world. Some of the most notable conflicts would arise in China, Korea, Vietnam and Cuba. Cold War tensions did not relax until the late 1970’s and into the 1980’s. By 1991, the Soviet Union had collapsed and a new balance of power began to emerge globally.