

SF_Energy_Activity_Clip_1_Commentary_Transcript Strategy

My class had spent several days discussing how a rubber band could get a toy car moving. There was some debate going on about whether stretching a rubber band a little sideways and a lot back would make a car go further than a rubber band stretched out more and pulled back a little. After much discussion, I asked the students to write and draw in their notebooks. This gave me a chance to see what everyone was thinking and how they had arisen at those thoughts. As the students were working, I talked with Kevin, who was drawing a picture of a very tightly horizontally stretched rubber band. I asked him why this arrangement was better than the other, looser rubber band, and he told me that the first one had "more energy." I thought that what he said was quite interesting, but I still wanted to know what he meant by that. He wasn't quite sure so we wrote down his statement and put a question mark at the end. I decided that this would be a good place for the class to start the next day. Since they had a lot of experience with the cars and rubber bands, I predicted that they might be able to help Kevin work on clarifying this idea. I opened up this day by reviewing Kevin's notebook with the class and asking for thoughts.