Upcoming Theme

Does the following theme not fit your idea? Don’t let that stop you from writing! We always make room for good manuscripts on any elementary science topic.

Issue: JANUARY/FEBRUARY 2025
Theme: Sensemaking
Deadline: June 1, 2024

NSTA defines sensemaking as the process where students are actively trying to figure out how the world works (science) or how to design solutions to problems (engineering). There are four critical attributes that contribute to sensemaking: phenomena, science and engineering practices, student ideas, and science ideas (grade-appropriate disciplinary core ideas). Sensemaking starts by having students experience a phenomenon together and then sharing their noticings and wonderings with the class. Students then utilize science and engineering practices to share, evaluate, and refine their ideas to deepen their conceptual understanding.

How do you plan for and implement the sensemaking process? Tell us your ideas, strategies, and lessons for

- Identifying a phenomenon
- Utilizing student wonderings to drive future lessons
- Addressing preconceptions
- Planning to ensure students are driving the investigations
- Navigating student discourse
- Differentiating for the various ability levels in your classroom
- Assessing student understanding of disciplinary core ideas
- Incorporating science and engineering practices

Questions?
Contact managing editor Caroline Barnes at cbarnes@nsta.org.