Teacher Guidance

Setting up the Vowel Valley

- The Vowel Valley is typically in a “v” shape.
- The order is based on how open the mouth is when making the sound.
- It is also based on where your tongue is in your mouth (top, bottom, back, or front).
- It starts with long e, travels down to short o, and then back up to long u.
- The schwa is placed in the middle.
- The vowel diphthongs that are made with two mouth positions are placed below the valley on the left.
- The r-controlled vowels are placed below the valley on the right.
- The display can also be set up by grouping short vowels, long vowels, r-controlled, and diphthongs together.
- The valley shape is not required for it to be effective.

Using the Vowel Valley

- Option 1: Set up the entire display at the beginning of the year.
- Option 2: Set up the entire display and cover the sounds that haven’t been taught with paper. Then uncover each sound as it is taught.
- Option 3: Add each sound to the display as taught.
- Option 4: Have the complete set of cards up and add word examples as each sound is introduced.

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