TOOL // Tug of War Area of a Rectangle

What is it used for?
This is a Making Thinking Visible Tool which builds on children’s familiarity with the game of tug of war to explore their thinking related to area of polygons.

How do you use it?
The teacher puts up a tug-o-war chart in math class to explore concepts surrounding area. The question above was “If we cut up a rectangle, will its total area still be the same?” Students put a sticky note with their name on it in the yes or no section. A discussion followed where students explained their thinking for their choice. Then they experimented with a rectangle handout, and adjusted their sticky note if necessary based on their findings. After this we consolidated our knowledge in a group discussion and students adjusted their sticky note a final time if they wished.

How do you adapt it to other subjects and topics?
This is a “Making Thinking Visible Strategy”. For more information check out “Making Thinking Visible” by Karing Morrison, Mark Church and Ron Ritchart.

Another great source for more information about these strategies are found on the website Visible Thinking Routines (http://www.visiblethinkingpz.org/)