Reading Strategies For Content Areas Part II



After Reading

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Effective vs. Ineffective Strategies for "Reading to Learn"

Before Reading Text:

Proficient Readers

Activate background knowledge on the subject through reflection and pre-reading.

Establish a realistic reading plan after examining the assignment length and assessing the difficulty through pre-reading.

Understand their reading task and set a clear purpose for reading.

Create a productive study environment and mindset to accomplish their task.

Under-Prepared Readers

Start reading without thinking about the subject or looking over the selection.

Have not assessed the difficulty level or length of the assignment and simply begin reading, attempting to finish in one session.

Do not have a reading purpose other than trying to get through some pages.

Fail to acknowledge the challenges of reading and approach reading tasks with an unproductive mindset & study environment.

During Reading:

Proficient Readers

Give their complete attention to their task.

Are familiar with text structure and know how to identify main ideas, terms, concepts.

Keep a constant check on their understanding.

Monitor their reading comprehension so regularly that it becomes automatic.

Make note of problematic material to later question the teacher and/or other sources.

Under-Prepared Readers

Interrupt their reading process regularly with mental or environmental distractions.

Are not very "text-wise" and have no clear sense of text organization and therefore have difficulty identifying important information.

Do not monitor their comprehension.

Seldom use any repair strategies when they are uncertain or confused.

Rarely or never take the initiative to seek clarification from the teacher.

After Reading:

Proficient Readers

Decide if they have reached their reading goal.

Evaluate comprehension of what was read.

Identify, highlight, and annotate main ideas within the text.

Synthesize and organize the main ideas for review and study purposes.

Under-Prepared Readers

Are not entirely certain what they have read.

Do not follow through with any form of comprehension self-check.

Do not identify and organize main ideas for study purposes.

Simply glance over or reread pages of the assigned reading before a text.

-- from Kate Kinsella, San Francisco State University

READING PROCESS SELF-EVALUATION

Name:	
Date:	Period:

BEFORE	
1. I gather any materials (highlighter, notebook, sticky notes, etc.)	I Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
might need.	
2. I choose a place without distractions to do my reading.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
3. Make sure I have a dictionary within reach.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
4. I go over any directions for the assigned reading.	Always Usually Sometimes ^Rarely Never
5. I preview (skim) the assignment to determine what it's about, how	v Always Usually Sometimes ^Rarely Never
long it will take me, and how hard it is.	
6. I make a plan for how to take notes based on the assignment.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
7. I generate a purpose question about the text.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
8. I make predictions about what I will read before beginning.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
9. I ask myself what I already know about this subject, this story,	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
or this author.	
10. I decide which reading strategy/strategies will be most useful.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
During	
11. I revisit my purpose and make sure I look for the information	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
that will help me achieve it.	
12. I make connections to myself, the world, and other texts/studies	. Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
13. I identify the main idea and supporting details.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
14. I use previous experience and background knowledge to	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
understand new information about the subject or story.	
15. I take notes, annotate the text, or highlight important details.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
16. I keep a list of questions about things I do not understand.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
17. I look up words I do not understand in the dictionary.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
18. I summarize what I read (in my head and/or in my notes) as I go	. Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
19. I make predictions about what will happen.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
20.I monitor my understanding as I go and stop to use various "fix	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
up" strategies when I get confused.	
21. I ask questions about what I read as I go.	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
After	
22.I stop and ask whether I know the answer to the purpose	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
questionI asked when I first began reading.	, , , ,
23.I reread all or part of the text to answer remaining questions,	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
examine the author's style, or review for tests.	
,	
24.I evaluate all that I read to determine what is most important to	o Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never
24.I evaluate all that I read to determine what is most important to remember in the future (e.g., for tests, papers, discussions).	Always Usually Sometimes Rarely Never

Reading Improvement Plan

Based on your evaluation above, make a plan for what you will do to improve your reading performance. In your plan, identify just those actions (3-5) that you can do immediately to get rapid results; then discuss how you accomplish your plan and why it will make a difference.

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Main Idea Organizer

This organizer is very useful for students to clarify the main idea of a text they have read. It asks them to identify the subject or theme of the text, the main idea or argument the author was making in the text, and examples of the main idea. It thereby makes an excellent segue from reading a text to writing about their interpretation.

MAIN IDE	A ORGANIZER	NAN	ΛΕ:
	Subject e you or the riting about?	SUBJECT	
Main What are you (o author) saying <i>abou</i> subject? (i.e., what i point you or the a	r the t the s the	MAIN IDEA	
want to m			
	DETAIL	DETAIL	DETAIL
<u>Details</u>			
E xamples Stories			
Quotations			
Explanations			

MAKING T	HE CONNEC	TION	NAME	:		
Directions:	3. When finish4. Generate th5. State your6. Using those	ing or after you ned reading, choo <i>hree</i> questions a main idea about questions to gu	ose <i>one</i> subject, [.] bout that topic. the subject. iide you, write a	then write it well-organiz		
PE	RSONAL		TEXT		OTHER TEXT	OR WORLD
CHRIECE						
SUBJECT						
	NS ABOUT Y	OUR SUBJE	CT: WHO, W	/HAT, WH	IERE, WHEN,	WHY, HOW,
50?						
1.						
2.						
3.						
MAIN IDE	A					
PARAGRA	PH					
	-		•			
2005	Jim Burke. May	be photocopied	tor classroom us	se only. Visi	t <u>www.englishcom</u>	panion.com _
						7

Pinwheels

This strategy is useful for the teacher who wants 100% participation from students. It encourages students to form educated opinions, and to develop their listening to what others have to contribute to a discussion based on a reading selection.

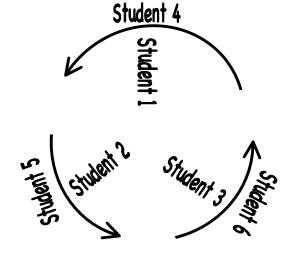
All students in a pinwheel must participate and usually learn that more ideas are generated from a group than from any one individual. Group problem solving is powerful.

After the teacher has read a story or an article to the students she then assigns them to form pinwheels.

Procedure:

- 1. Students are put into groups of preferably six. This can be adapted to meet odd numbers.
- 2. Three students sit in the middle of the group with their backs to the center. Each of the additional students sits facing one of the students in the middle.
- 3. Each of the three students in the middle is assigned a different discussion question. The questions can be formulated by the teacher or students.
- 4. Students on the outside proceed clockwise to each member of the center to discuss that member's question.
- 5. A recorder summarizes on butcher paper the various solutions for each question.
- 6. Summaries are posted and the various groups of six circulate to read what other groups have suggested.

DIAGRAM OF A PINWHEEL



Example of Pinwheel: Biology

A biology teacher wants students to begin a discussion of environmental cleanup.

The book selected to make an impact is a children's picture book. This choice should not offend secondary teachers or their students. Many picture books have strong messages that older students can find stimulating as well as enjoyable when read for a more mature purpose.

After reading *The Last Free Bird* by Stone, or *The Lorax* by Dr. Seuss to the class, a pinwheel discussion would begin.

Students would form pinwheels and the assigned questions to be discussed might be:

- 1. Why is it important to save the environment?
- 2. What can students do immediately to help save the environment?
- 3. What is the government doing to support these efforts?

The pinwheel is a marvelous strategy. It requires that every single student participate in a discussion.

Guiding Reading and Writing in the Content Areas by M. Carrol Tama and Anita Bell McCain

Summary Notes

Summarizing is an important and often difficult skill. It involves evaluating content for importance, particularly in relation to their purpose for reading. This organizer offers useful advise to students who are learning to write an effective summary. It asks them to establish a clear purpose for reading, gives them reminders about which information to take notes, and provides a set of guidelines to follow when writing a summary. It also gives them a sample summary and some academic language (useful verbs) to use when crafting their summary.

Sullil	nary Notes	
Name:		Date:
Topic:		Period:
3. DURING	Determine your purpose. Preview the document. Prepare to take notes.	Sample summary written @ Jackie Ardon In "Surviving a Year of Sleepless Nights," Jenny Hung discusses success and how it may not be so good. Hung points out that having fun is better than having success and glory. Jenny Hung survived a painful year because of having too many honors classes, getting straight A's, and having a GPA of 4.43. Why would any of this be bod? It's because she wasn't happy. She describes working so hard for something she didn't really want. At one point she says, "There was even a month in winter when I was so self-conscious of my raccoon eyes that I wore sunglosses to school." She says she often stayed up late doing work and studying for tests for her classes. After what she had been through, she
_	,	decided that it was not her life, and chose her classes carefully once sophomore year came around.
	 Identify the title, author, and topic inthe first sentence State the main idea in the second sentence Be shorter than the original article Begin with a sentence that states the topic (see sample) Include a second sentence that states the author's main idea Include 3-5 sentences in which you explain-In your own words-the author'spoint of view Include one or two interesting quotations or details Not alter the author's meaning Organize the ideas in the order in which they appear in the article Use transitions such as "According to" + the author's name to show that you are summarizing someone else's ideas Include enough information so that someone 	
Sample -argues -assert -conclu -conside -discuss -empha -examin	-Implies Ides -mentions Ides -notes Ides -points out Ides -says Ides -states	

-explores -suggests

May be copied for classroom we. Tools for Thought by Jim Burke (Heinemann: Portsmouth, NH); @ 2002.

Summary Sheet

This organizer helps students identify categories and synthesize main ideas from one or several sources. It is particularly useful as a study guide in preparation for an exam. The "Quick Picks" column on the left is designed for students to list important names, dates, and vocabulary terms they wish to study. The "Overview" encourages students to describe the major theme of the unit.

Summary Sheet				
Name:Unit/Subject:				
Period:	Period:	Class:		
QUICK PICKS Names-dates-words	OVERVIEW: Summarize the	· · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · · ·		
Islam	Religions	Political Systems	Leaders (Political/Religious)	
Buddhism Hinduism Judaism Confucianism Atheism Christianity Clavinism Catholicism Anglicanism Protestantism Lutheranism	 ISLAM (submission) Allah/Mohammed. Text: Koran; Type: monotheistic. Arabia. 5 Pillars: Faith, prayer (x5), fasting, alms (charity) to poor, and hajj (Mecca). CHRISTIANITY GodIJesus. Text: Bible (NewTestament) Type: monotheistic. Sects: Anglican, Catholic, Protestant, Lutheran, Calvinist. BUDDHISM Buddha. 4 Noble Truths. India. JUDAISM God/Moses. Book: Old Testament (Torah/Talmud); Type: monotheistic. 10 Commandments. HINDUISM Polytheistic: Vishnu and Krishna. Book: Vedas. Caste System: 1. Brahmin (preists/scholars); 2. Kshatrias (warriors/rulers); 3. Vaisyas (merchants/farmers); 4. Sudras (laborers); 5. PariahlHarijans (outcasts, aka Untouchables). ATHEISM: Belief that there is no qod. 	ANARCHY Definition: Example: MONARCHY (Autocracy) Definition: Example: OLIGARCHY (Aristocracy) Definition: Example: PLUTOCRACY Definition: Example: MERITOCRACY Definition: Example: MERITOCRACY Definition: Example: DEMOCRACY Definition: Example:		

FIGURE 18.1 I gave students in my ACCESS classes this sample and provided three categories. They got only the suggested religions for their first category and had to fill in the rest.

Period: Class:	Name:		Unit/Subject:		
QUICK PICKS Names-dates-words OVERVIEW: Summarize the topic or chapter in one senten	Period:	Period:	Class:		
	QUICK PICKS Names-dates-words OVERVIEW: Summarize the topic or chapter in one sent				
		_			
		_			
		_			
		_			
		_			

Reporter's Notes

Identifying the "five W's" (who, what, where, when, why) is a simple method for clarifying essential information in text. Adding "How?" asks students to consider the method someone used to achieve a particular end, while the question "So what?" encourages thought about the significance of an action or event. This organizer offers students a place to gather notes which respond to these questions (in the left column); then it forces them to evaluate the most important responses from their list (on the right side).

Name: D	ate:
Topic: Pe	eriod:
Reporter's Notes help you get the crucial information—the meaning of the facts, too. These are the questions their articles. These are the questions that <i>good</i> reade always appropriate; you decide if it's okay to leave one can explain why that information is absent.	all reporters ask when they write ers ask. Not all questions ore
WHO (is involved or affected)	Most Important WHO
WHAT (happened)	Most Important WHAT
WHERE (did it happen)	Most Important WHERE
WHEN (did it happen)	Most Important WHEN
HOW (did they do it or did others respond)	Most Important HOW
WHY (did they do this, react this way)	Most Important WHY
SO WHAT? (Why is this event/info/idea important?	? Most Important SO WHAT?

May be copied for classroom use. Tools for thought by Jim Burke

Reporter's Notes				
Name: Drew Shiller			Date:	
Subject:			Period:	
facts, too. These are the that <i>good</i> readers ask. I	u get the crucial information-not "just the questions all reporters ask when they writ Not all questions ore always appropriate; y You can explain why that information is abs	te their articles. /ou decide if it's	These are the questions	
WHO (is involved or Phil Auntie Helen Bao-bao (Roger)	affected) Phíl (Pearl's husband) Cleo Tessa Mother	Pearl - Narv - ma -her díed	in character aunt that has , to deal with her	
Francisco from Savengagement party WHERE (did it happ • mother's store if • banquet room • • her old room - WHEN (did it happe	n Chinatown (San Francisco) - funeral saw her teenage years again	Phil, Pearl, come up on funeral. Most Imp Chinatown place, her of mother's shown When she got flower shop.	pp is. portant WHEN pes to her mother's in Chinatown - be old store owners	
 How grand Aug greatly, all rela funeral. 	t or did others respond) ntie Du died - affected mother utives came into Chinatown for the	Most In How Phil iso because it's relate to the didn't unde	nportant HOW vit very sympathetic the for him to c Chinese culture- crstand.	
 all care about came to attend	his, react this way) ease-never tells mother mother-need to be there for her engagement party-funeral just uppen there for her	Pearl dídn't	nportant WHY t want to have on mother to have out her.	
 important that mother 	s this event/info/idea important? auntie Du died-sympathy to Pearl saw her old heritage-	That Pearl o	rtant SO WHAT? and family came mily that they	

experienced past

FIGURE 1s.1 Drew Shiller's Reporter's Notes helped him establish the important details early on in Amy

Tan's novel The Kitchen God's Wife.

Reading: Think About	Reading: Think About	Reading: Think About	Reading: Think About
I†!	I†!	I†!	I†!
Thinking about <i>how</i> you read	Thinking about <i>how</i> you read	Thinking about <i>how</i> you read	Thinking about <i>how</i> you read
• I was distracted by	• I was distracted by	• I was distracted by	I was distracted by
 I started to think about 	 I started to think about 	I started to think about	 I started to think about
 I got stuck when 	I got stuck when	I got stuck when	I got stuck when
 I was confused/focused today because 	 I was confused/focused today because 	 I was confused/focused today because 	 I was confused/focused today because
 One strategy I used to help me read this better was 	One strategy I used to help me read this better was	One strategy I used to help me read this better was	One strategy I used to help me read thi better was
When I got distracted I tried to refocus	When I got distracted I tried to refocus	When I got distracted I tried to refocus	When I got distracted I tried to refocus
myself by	myself by	myself by	myself by
These words(s) or phrases were	These words(s) or phrases were	These words(s) or phrases were	These words(s) or phrases were
new/interesting to meI think they	new/interesting to meI think they	new/interesting to meI think they	new/interesting to meI think they
mean	mean	mean	mean
When reading I should	When reading I should	When reading I should	When reading I should
When I read today I realized that	When I read today I realized that	When I read today I realized that	When I read today I realized that
• I have a hard time understanding	I have a hard time understanding	I have a hard time understanding	I have a hard time understanding
I'll read better next time if I	I'll read better next time if I	I'll read better next time if I	I'll read better next time if I
Thinking about what you read	Thinking about <i>what</i> you read	Thinking about what you read	Thinking about what you read
Why does the character/author	Why does the character/author	Why does the character/author	Why does the character/author
 Why doesn't the character/author 	 Why doesn't the character/author 	 Why doesn't the character/author 	 Why doesn't the character/author
 What surprised me most was 	 What surprised me most was 	What surprised me most was	 What surprised me most was
• I predict that	I predict that	I predict that	I predict that
 This author's writing style is 	 This author's writing style is 	 This author's writing style is 	 This author's writing style is
 I noted that the author uses 	 I noted that the author uses 	 I noted that the author uses 	 I noted that the author uses
 The main character wants/is 	 The main character wants/is 	 The main character wants/is 	 The main character wants/is
 If I could, I'd ask the 	If I could, I'd ask the	If I could, I'd ask the	 If I could, I'd ask the
author/character	author/character	author/character	author/character
 The most interesting event/idea in this 	 The most interesting event/idea in this 	 The most interesting event/idea in this 	 The most interesting event/idea in this
book is	book is	book is	book is
• I realized	I realized	I realized	I realized
 The main conflict/idea in this book is 	 The main conflict/idea in this book is 	The main conflict/idea in this book is	 The main conflict/idea in this book is
• I wonder why	I wonder why	I wonder why	I wonder why
 One theme that keeps coming up is 	One theme that keeps coming up is	One theme that keeps coming up is	 One theme that keeps coming up is
• I found the following quote interesting	• I found the following quote interesting	I found the following quote interesting	 I found the following quote interesting
• I this book because	I this book because	I this book because	I this book because
Elaborating on what you think	Elaborating on what you think	Elaborating on what you think	Elaborating on what you think
• I think because	• I think because	I think because	I think because
A good example of is	A good example of is	A good example of is	A good example of is
• This reminded me of because	This reminded me of because	This reminded me of because	• This reminded me of because
This was important because	This was important because	This was important because	This was important because
One thing that surprised me was	One thing that surprised me was	One thing that surprised me was	One thing that surprised me was
because I always thought	because I always thought	because I always thought	because I always thought
The author is saying that	The author is saying that	The author is saying that	The author is saying that

Reading: Think About It!	Reading: Think About It!	Reading: Think About It!	Reading: Think About It!
 When reading remember to: Ask questions of the text, yourself, and the author Make connections to yourself, other texts, and the world Use different strategies to achieve and maintain focus while reading Determine ahead of time why you are reading this text and how it should be read Adjust your strategies as you read to help you understand and enjoy what you read 	When reading remember to: Ask questions of the text, yourself, and the author Make connections to yourself, other texts, and the world Use different strategies to achieve and maintain focus while reading Determine ahead of time why you are reading this text and how it should be read Adjust your strategies as you read to help you understand and enjoy what you read	 When reading remember to: Ask questions of the text, yourself, and the author Make connections to yourself, other texts, and the world Use different strategies to achieve and maintain focus while reading Determine ahead of time why you are reading this text and how it should be read Adjust your strategies as you read to help you understand and enjoy what you read 	this text and how it should be read • Adjust your strategies as you read to help you understand and enjoy what you read
Evaluating how well you read Evaluate and decide which of the following best describes your reading performance	Evaluating how well you read Evaluate and decide which of the following best describes your reading performance	Evaluating how well you read Evaluate and decide which of the following best describes your reading performance	Evaluating how well you read Evaluate and decide which of the following best describes your reading performance
today. Explain why you gave yourself the score, also.	today. Explain why you gave yourself the score, also.	today. Explain why you gave yourself the score, also.	today. Explain why you gave yourself the score, also.
My reading was: 1. Excellent because I • Read the full 20 minutes • Read actively (e.g., used different strategies and techniques) • Understood what I read 2. Successful because I • Read almost the entire 20 minutes • Tried to use some strategies that mostly helped me read better • Understood most of what I read 3. Inconsistent because I • Read only about half the time • Used some strategies but they didn't help me much • Understood some of what I read 4. Unsuccessful because I	My reading was: 5. Excellent because I Read the full 20 minutes Read actively (e.g., used different strategies and techniques) Understood what I read Successful because I Read almost the entire 20 minutes Tried to use some strategies that mostly helped me read better Understood most of what I read Inconsistent because I Read only about half the time Used some strategies but they didn't help me much Understood some of what I read Unsuccessful because I	My reading was: 9. Excellent because I • Read the full 20 minutes • Read actively (e.g., used different strategies and techniques) • Understood what I read 10. Successful because I • Read almost the entire 20 minutes • Tried to use some strategies that mostly helped me read better • Understood most of what I read 11. Inconsistent because I • Read only about half the time • Used some strategies but they didn't help me much • Understood some of what I read 12. Unsuccessful because I	My reading was: 13. Excellent because I Read the full 20 minutes Read actively (e.g., used different strategies and techniques) Understood what I read 14. Successful because I Read almost the entire 20 minutes Tried to use some strategies that mostly helped me read better Understood most of what I read 15. Inconsistent because I Read only about half the time Used some strategies but they didn't help me much Understood some of what I read 16. Unsuccessful because I
 Read little or nothing Did not read actively Did not understand what I read I didn't understand because 	 Read little or nothing Did not read actively Did not understand what I read I didn't understand because 	 Read little or nothing Did not read actively Did not understand what I read I didn't understand because 	 Read little or nothing Did not read actively Did not understand what I read I didn't understand because
Develop your own questions Develop your own question(s) or prompt(s) that you find helpful when thinkingabout how or what you read: • •	Develop your own questions Develop your own question(s) or prompt(s) that you find helpful when thinkingabout how or what you read: • —————————————————————————————————	Develop your own questions Develop your own question(s) or prompt(s) that you find helpful when thinkingabout how or what you read: •	Develop your own questions Develop your own question(s) or prompt(s) that you find helpful when thinkingabout how or what you read: • —————————————————————————————————