



Essential Cognitive Strategies for Content Literacy

ORGANIZE

Graphic or visual representations help the learner understand and remember what they have read and help prepare the learner to write.

Represent information from text in a graphic format.

Make charts, diagrams, maps, timelines, continuums.

Make a personal picture of an idea or concept.

Draw a picture. Make concept maps or webs.

Find meaningful patterns in the text content.

Take two-column notes. Use frames or story plans

MONITOR

Active readers monitor how well they understand what they are reading as they read. If material is difficult, they engage in strategies to help them understand.

Think about how and what you are reading.

How are you doing? Does the information make sense? What do you need more information about? What is not clear or confusing?

Use strategies to help comprehension.

What are the methods, techniques, processes that best help you get meaning from text?

Reread, use reference tools to look up meaning of words, review and highlight key words, concepts.

SUMMARIZE

Teaching students to summarize has a positive effect on their comprehension. For some students this is the most difficult strategies to learn.

Restate meaning in your own words.

Write or say aloud what you think sentence, paragraph, passage means.

Summarize the main idea.

One sentence summary - read selection, list key words, combine words into one sentence summary.

For textbooks: Review titles, boldfaced headings, vocabulary, discussion questions, illustrations. Review your notes, any charts, diagrams, concept maps, Organize your ideas. Then write A summary.

QUESTION

Good readers have questions when they read. It is as important for readers to ask and get answers to their own questions as it is for them to answer the teacher questions.

Self question.

What do you think is important? How does this fit with what you already know? What do you like? What don't you like?

Question author/text.

How does the author organize information for you? How does author/text show you what is important?

Question classmates.

What do your peers think is important? Do they agree with you? How do they interpret the text?

Predict.

What do think the teacher will ask about the text? In a narrative, what do think the title means? What will happen next?