

State Department of Education

Instructional Strategies Project



Glossary of Strategies

About This Document

The Instructional Strategies Project Glossary consists of brief descriptions of a variety of strategies that foster student engagement and daily formative assessment of learning. These strategies should move students toward the learning outcomes by providing multiple opportunities for them to engage in discussions with peers to develop talking and listening skills, read and write in a variety of situations, and investigate relevant and meaningful concepts. This list is by no means all inclusive. Teachers are encouraged to locate and use other strategies that are appropriate for their content and meet their daily standards-based outcomes. It is also important to remember that strategies can be modified to meet the needs of the learners. A

Internet links for strategies are provided at the end of this document.

Questions to Consider When Planning a Lesson

1. What standard am I teaching?
2. What are my daily measurable objectives for this standard?
3. What strategies will help me pace my lesson appropriately?
4. What strategies will require ALL (100%) of my students to engage in content through reading, writing, talking, listening, and investigating?
5. What actions will I take to assess throughout the lesson?

STRATEGY DESCRIPTIONS

Anticipation Guide

Purposes: (1) set purposes for reading texts (2) activate prior knowledge (3) help make connections with the text

Procedure:

1. Analyze material to be read. Select major ideas with which students will interact.
2. Write the ideas in short, clear declarative statements with some of the statements being true and some of the statements being false.
3. Put statements in a format that will elicit anticipation and prediction.
4. Discuss students' anticipations and predictions before they read the text.
5. Students read the text to confirm or disconfirm their original responses. After reading, students revisit their predictions and modify, if necessary.

Example:

- | | Agree | Disagree |
|--|-------|----------|
| 1. Bats use their ears to help them see at night. | _____ | _____ |
| 2. The mudskipper is a fish that can climb a tree. | _____ | _____ |

Exit Slips

Purpose: (1) reflect on content of lesson

The exit-slip strategy requires students to write responses to questions you pose at the end of class. Exit slips help students reflect on what they have learned and express what or how they are thinking about the new information. Exit slips easily incorporate writing into your content area classroom and require students to think critically.

How to create them...

- At the end of your lesson or five minutes before the end of class, ask students to respond to a prompt you pose to the class.
- You may state the prompt orally to your students or project it visually.
- You may want to distribute 3x5 cards for students to write their responses on or allow students to write on loose-leaf paper.
- As students leave your room, they should turn in their exit slips.

How to use them...

- Review the exit slips to determine how you may need to alter your instruction to better meet the needs of all your students.
- Collect the exit slips as a part of an assessment portfolio for each student.

ICE (Illustrate-Calculate/Connect-Explain)

Purposes: (1) provide a visual model of the concept students are learning about and (2) show evidence of understanding through calculations or connections (3) promote student writing about content

ICE is a math strategy that stands for Illustrate-Calculate-Explain. It can apply to all contents by being adapted to Illustrate-CONNECT-Explain. The teacher may choose the format in which students complete this strategy.

Graphic Organizers

Purposes: (1) provide a visual model of the structure of text and (2) provide a format for organizing information and concepts

Procedure:

1. Introduce the graphic organizer to the students. Demonstrate how it works by reading a piece of text and noting key concepts and ideas on the organizer.
2. Have groups of students practice using the graphic organizer with ideas from independently read text. Share ideas with the class.
3. Choose an organizer that matches the text structure and thinking processes.

Jigsaw

Purposes: (1) engage with text (2) self-monitor comprehension (3) integrate new information with prior knowledge (4) respond to text through discussion

Procedure:

1. Divide class into 4-6 member groups; each member becomes an expert on a different topic/concept assigned by teacher.
2. Members of the teams with the same topic meet together in an expert group with a variety of resource materials and texts available to explore their topic. Also, a single reading from the textbook or another source could be used to complete the assignment.
3. The students prepare how they will teach the information to others.
4. Everyone returns to their jigsaw (home) teams to teach what they learned to the other members.
5. It may be helpful to supply each student with a graphic organizer for note taking purposes.
6. Team members listen and take notes as their classmate teaches them.

Journal Responses

Purposes: (1) respond in writing to the texts they are reading and (2) provide opportunities for reflection and critical thinking

Procedure:

1. Provide students with a journal or a system for keeping their responses.
2. Show students examples of good responses to text. Help students identify aspects of thoughtful reading responses.
3. Read a portion of text out loud and share a thoughtful response. Discuss with students why it was thoughtful and not shallow.

4. Read another portion of text aloud and have students write a thoughtful response. Share in groups.
5. For independent reading, have students write the date and the title of the text or chapter at the top of the page or in the left margin.
6. After reading a text, or listening to one, students use Journal Responses to respond to what was read. Journal Responses can include reactions, questions, wonderings, predictions, connections, or feelings.
7. Encourage students to share responses in groups or with the whole class.

Example:

Journal Response prompts:

- What was important in the chapter? How do you know?
- What is something new you learned? Explain.
- What connection(s) did you make? Explain.

K. I. M. (Key Ideas, Information, Memory Clues)

- Make a three column chart.
- Write the term or key idea (K) in the left column, the information (I) that goes along with it in the center column, and draw a picture of the idea, a memory clue, (M) in the right column.
- The key idea may be a new vocabulary word or a new concept. The information may be a definition or it may be a more technical explanation of the concept. The memory clue is a way for students to fully integrate the meaning of the key idea into their memories. By making a simple sketch that explains the key idea, students synthesize and interpret the new information, making it their own. Then, students can reference their drawings to easily remember new key ideas.

Key Idea	Information	Memory Clue

Q-Chart

Purposes: (1) Provide a framework for teachers and students to create questions at varying levels of difficulty (2) Help students use questions to extract meaning from text

A T-Chart designated for questioning is also sometimes called a Q-Chart. It is simply a two column chart that poses questions from the text on the right side, and the left side is blank for students to answer the questions and take notes from their reading.

Questions	Responses/Notes

Question Cards

Purposes: (1) Prompt the teacher to write questions before class (2) help the teacher ensure question types vary (3) help the teacher ensure that ALL students are given the opportunity to respond to varying levels of questions

The concept of Question Cards is for teachers to write questions on index cards or simply make a list of questions to be asked during a lesson. Teachers may pre-assign questions to certain students. In this case, the teacher would first pose the question to the entire class, employ wait time for ALL students to formulate an answer, and then call on the pre-assigned student to respond. The teacher may also ask that all students respond to each question in writing before selected students respond orally.

Think-Pair-Share

Purposes: variety

- 1) Think.** The teacher provokes students' thinking with a question or prompt or observation. The students should take a few moments (probably not minutes) just to THINK about the question.
- 2) Pair.** Using designated partners, nearby neighbors, or a desk mate, students PAIR up to talk about the answer each came up with. They compare their mental or written notes and identify the answers they think are best, most convincing, or most unique.
- 3) Share.** After students talk in pairs for a few moments (again, usually not minutes), the teacher calls for pairs to SHARE their thinking with the rest of the class. Sharing can be accomplished in a variety of ways: going around in round-robin fashion, calling on each pair, taking answers as they are called out (or as

hands are raised), pairing with another pair. Often, the teacher or a designated helper will record these responses on the board or on the overhead.

Internet Resources for Strategies

- <http://www.litandlearn.lpb.org/strategies.html>
- http://www.learner.org/jnorth/tm/ReadStrats_20Best.html
- <http://www.learningpt.org/literacy/adolescent/strategies.php>
- http://www.adlit.org/strategy_library
- <http://www.sw-georgia.resa.k12.ga.us/Math.html> (math graphic organizers)
- http://www.edhelper.com/teachers/graphic_organizers.htm (graphic organizers)
- <http://www.justreadnow.com/strategies/index.htm>
- <http://www.readingquest.org/strat/>
Reading Quest (Social Science site full of literacy strategies—for all content areas)
- <http://coe.sdsu.edu/people/jmora/Pages/ContentStudyGds.htm>
Literacy in the Content Areas: Study Guides & Vocabulary Activities
- <http://www.teachersdomain.org/special/adlit/>
These self-paced classroom activities are designed to enhance the literacy skills of struggling readers in Grades 5–8. Each uses videos, interactive activities, note-taking, reading, and writing. Free registration required.
- http://www.visual-literacy.org/periodic_table/periodic_table.html#
Visual Literacy: This is a "periodic table" of visual literacy. You can select related links and view examples. This is a useful site to when you're **designing graphic organizers**, with over fifty different visualization methods provided:
- www.educationoasis.com