

LEARNING TOGETHER ABOUT COMPREHENSION STRATEGY INSTRUCTION

Purpose	Trainers, coaches, and expert teachers are encouraged to use this tool to provide in-service training on teaching comprehension strategies. During this session, teachers will work in the larger group and in small groups to deepen their understanding of strategies for teaching reading comprehension across content areas.
Materials	Laptop and projector
Media	<p><i>Effective Strategies That Boost Reading Comprehension.</i> Watch this multimedia overview to learn how explicit comprehension instruction can improve reading comprehension. (5:26)</p> <p><i>The Value of Teaching Comprehension Strategies.</i> Watch this expert interview with Dr. Janice Dole to learn about how teachers can use instruction in comprehension strategies to increase students' abilities to navigate difficult text. (6:28)</p> <p>This tool and related media and materials are located in the Doing What Works Library (https://dwwlibrary.wested.org/). For assistance, contact dww@wested.org.</p>
Topic	Adolescent Literacy
Practice	Comprehension Strategies

Learning Together About Comprehension Strategy Instruction

1. Hand out the bulleted discussion questions below. Watch the multimedia presentation, *Comprehension Strategy Instruction for Adolescents* and the expert interview, *The Value of Teaching Comprehension Strategies*. Lead a discussion to clarify the team's understanding about comprehension strategies by asking them to reflect on these questions:
 - What are some examples of comprehension strategies that you have used during your own reading of difficult text, both currently and in the past? (*Note to trainer:* As an additional exercise you might first present participants with a challenging technical or literary text and ask them to read and make sense of it, in order to help them surface and reflect upon the comprehension strategies they currently use without being aware of them.)
 - What supports or strategies do you provide your students when tackling challenging texts?
 - What are your thoughts on the value of teaching comprehension strategies to your students?
 - What is the value of teaching comprehension strategies across content areas?
 - What kinds of tools, materials, or training would you need to incorporate more explicit teaching of comprehension strategies into your classroom?
2. Discuss as a group: In both media presentations the following idea is presented: Students should see comprehension strategies modeled, receive feedback during guided practice, and then have opportunities for independent practice. Discuss the questions below related to this point:
 - Brainstorm the various ways teachers might model a comprehension strategy.
 - Dr. Dole mentions that teachers typically move too quickly from modeling to independent practice. Why do you think this is often the case?
 - What does the term "guided practice" mean to you?
 - What does guided practice look like in the classroom?
 - What are the various ways teachers can give feedback on strategy use?
 - What are some indicators a teacher might use to know when her students are ready for more independent practice?
 - What are some indicators a teacher might use to know when she needs to re-model a strategy?

3. Have teachers bring in challenging texts they are planning to have their students read, then in small groups:
 - Discuss which **comprehension strategies** would be most appropriate to teach with their text
 - Brainstorm different ways of **modeling** the strategies
 - Brainstorm ways of providing opportunities for students to **practice** the strategies individually, in pairs, or in groups

Note: The included lists are not exhaustive but may help in thinking through each of these areas

Some common comprehension strategies:	Discussion Notes
Summarizing	
Finding the main idea	
Asking questions	
Answering questions	
Making predictions	
Note-taking	
Talking to the text	
Discussing the text	
Using graphic organizers or concept maps	
Making inferences	
Clarifying difficult words or phrases	
Text-to-text, text-to-self, or text-to-world connections	
Visualizing	
Monitoring	
Identifying the author's intent	
<i>(Other strategies...)</i>	

Some ways to model a comprehension strategy:	Discussion Notes
Thinking aloud while reading a text	
Filling out a graphic organizer or note-taking tool	
Annotating a text on an overhead	
<i>(Other ways of modeling...)</i>	
Some activity structures for practicing comprehension strategies:	Discussion Notes
Think-Pair-Share	
Reciprocal Teaching Groups	
Partner Reading	
Jigsaw Groups	
Literature Circles	
<i>(Other activity structures...)</i>	