

Reciprocal Teaching

Purpose:

To teach students how to use four comprehension strategies when they are reading:

- generating questions
- summarizing
- predicting
- clarifying

There are two phases when planning a reciprocal lesson. The first phase has five steps:

1. Find text selections that demonstrate the four comprehension activities.
2. Generate appropriate questions.
3. Generate predictions about each selection.
4. Locate summarizing sentences and develop summaries for each selection.
5. Note difficult vocabulary and concepts.

In the second phase the instructor decides which comprehension strategies to teach based on the needs of the students. The instructor also needs to determine how much support should be given as the students learn these strategies. The teacher models the use of these strategies by thinking aloud as he/she reads the passage. Then the students take turns modeling the strategies for each other. Once the students learn how to use the strategies the teacher can use reciprocal teaching to model how to decide which strategy to use in different situations.