

Instructional Literacy Strategies for Content Area Classrooms

Strategies used before a learning activity takes place to activate students' prior knowledge.

Strategy	Literacy Skills*	Purpose	Description
Anticipation Guides	C, V	Instills interest in material & prompts students to be active seekers and listeners for important information.	Create short statements about topic that students respond to with true/false, agree/disagree, yes/no.
Graphic Organizers	C, V	Provides students two pathways to learn material: verbally (text) & spatially (organization of information). For real learning to occur, students use completed GO to transform information.	Select a graphic organizer that matches concepts to be learned. Students complete GO and then use it for another task.
K-W-L Charts	C, V	Used to introduce a new unit or topic: K-What do you <i>know</i> ?, W-What do you <i>want</i> to know?, L-What have you <i>learned</i> ?	With a column set up for each letter, students brainstorm K & W responses, & review what they learned at end of unit/topic.
Opinionnaires	C, V	Used to elicit attitudes or opinions about a topic or controversial issue.	Controversial statements are presented to students that they either agree or disagree with and provide a reason.
Pattern Guides	C, V	Focuses learning on the relationship between concepts. Can be used before & after learning occurs.	Concepts are written on a puzzle piece and students connect the pieces as they learn the material. Can be used as a review at end.
Read-Alouds	C, V	Piques students' interest & engages them in topic.	Teacher reads aloud (book, poem, article, etc.) to class and then holds a discussion.
SQPL	C, V	Designed to gain students' interest in material by having them ask and answer their own questions.	Present students with a statement that provokes interest and curiosity. Students generate questions they would like answered.
Think-Alouds	C, V	Provides students a glimpse into expert thinking about a topic or skill.	Teacher explains the thinking behind a process as they go through it with the students.

***Literacy Skills: C-comprehension, V-vocabulary development**