

Reciprocal Teaching: Strategies for Reading and Gathering Information

Reciprocal teaching is a conversation between the teacher and students or between students in a small group. Different readers share information by taking turns in a discussion and through using different skills or strategies. The four skills or strategies that we will be using are summarizing, questioning, clarifying, and predicting. We will then be connecting the information from different articles to formulate an answer to a question or a conclusion. Throughout the activity, you will be responsible for your learning from the articles.

Here is an overview of the four skills or strategies:

<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Summarize</i></p> <p>Summarize what is being read. The reader might use other strategies like marking the text and writing in the margins while reading in order to determine the importance of the information and make summarizing easier. Students will orally share the summary of the article with a small group that has also read the article. After sharing, students will write down a summary of the article.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Question</i></p> <p>Formulate questions about what is being read. These questions serve two purposes. The first purpose is to ask questions to help the reader better understand what he or she is reading. The second purpose is to develop questions to ask members of a small group that have read the article or section of text. This allows all readers to gain a deeper understanding of the text. Questions can be asked before, during, or after reading. Students should try to ask higher level questions (Costa’s level 2 and 3 questions).</p>
<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Clarify</i></p> <p>Clarify confusing words or ideas from the reading. As a reader reads, he or she makes note of items that need clarification. The clarification could be about the pronunciation of a word, the meaning of a word, or an idea (i.e. figurative language) or a concept. These items can be written down while reading or after reading. The clarifications can also answer or address any questions or predictions made before reading. The reader should then clarify these points of confusion.</p>	<p style="text-align: center;"><i>Predict</i></p> <p>Predict what will happen or what will be learned in the next section of a text or in a companion reading. The reader should make the prediction at the end of reading a section of text and before beginning the reading of the next section of the text. Predictions can be made before, during, or after reading. The reader should share these predictions with the small group.</p>

Reciprocal Teaching Organizer

Each member of the group is responsible for using one of the four strategies. At the end of reading the section, each group member will share information about the article from his or her strategy. After the discussion, all members of the group should have a completed organizer.

Title of Reading: _____

Author and Author's Background (if given): _____

What is the purpose for reading this text? _____

<i>Summarize</i>	<i>Question</i>
<i>Clarify</i>	<i>Predict</i>

What connections can you make to other reading you have completed?