

Comprehension Strategy Instruction

(Preparing your class for Reciprocal Teaching)

It is important that students are independent with each comprehension strategy (summarization, prediction, clarification, questioning) before attempting Reciprocal Teaching. Please plan on spending the first few weeks of the semester practicing strategies in isolation before implementing RT in your classroom.

Each of the four strategies should be taught to mastery. Strategies should be taught one at a time. It is often easiest to teach a new strategy with pictures.

Sample schedule:

Monday

- Teach the target strategy as you would a new vocabulary word.
- Slides are provided for you on the website. You may modify them as long as you retain the strategy and are explicit in your instruction. Even if you think some of your students might already know the strategy, they often have heard it, but not received instruction on how to actually do it. Take the time to teach explicitly.

Tuesday

- Independent Practice with a warm-up (use the templates to create your own)

Wednesday

- Group practice with the Structured Group worksheet. If you have not used small group work in your classes very much, practice getting in and out of groups.

Thursday/Friday

- Repeat Independent practice with the warm-ups or Structured Group work until your students demonstrate clear understanding of the target strategy.
- Although it is sometimes easier to use the warm-ups for independent practice, please give equal time to Structured Group Work. This not only allows your students to learn from each other, it also provides important practice getting in and out of groups and collaborating.

**If your students need additional practice with the target strategy, continue into the next week.