

ELA 10-2 Reading Strategy Notes

Good reading strategies are key to successful reading! Good reading strategies should be applied to all reading materials, regardless of their complexity or subject matter.

Some key Reading Strategies: Really Important Information to Read

1. What is it that you will be reading and why are you reading it? You will have different approaches depending on the purpose of your reading. For example, if you are reading something for course work, you generally will be reading for some specific types of information. Knowing what you are expected to learn while reading, may be very helpful.
2. Approach the reading piece, first as an observer, and then as viewer and reader. What extra information is available? Are there images? Extra information? View or read the available information as this will “set the stage” for your reading.
3. Check out the title, too! Sometimes titles give us good clues to content and purpose.
4. Reading is always an interactive process. You need to “bring things to the table when you read.” Therefore, your mind should always be thinking and experiencing as you read through a piece.
5. Consider the following steps to keep your reading skills developing.

Before You Read:

- Does the title mean anything to me? Is there any extra information besides the main text?
- What do I see? Is there an image?
- Does the image have information with it?
- What do I already know about this idea or topic?
- What do I think might happen in this piece or what might it address?
- Do I have any questions?
- Do I have any connections to the given information before I begin reading?

As You Read:

- “Chunk” your reading - read a portion or a paragraph, and then check for your understanding.
- If you have a clear understanding of what you have read, proceed. If you are unsure, you should read the previous section again.
- Try to visualize what is going on in the piece.
- Continue to ask questions as you read, as this is a process where you become involved.
- Continue to make predictions of what you think will happen.
- Pay attention to ideas or common threads throughout the piece, as this will become the main idea or theme.
- Make inferences or (read “between the lines” based on information you are given. Inferences need to be reasonable and plausible according to given information.
- Look up the meanings of words you do not understand.

Above all, try to connect with whatever you are reading! Think about what comes to your mind about your own experiences?

What reading strategies can you use if you feel you are not understanding as you read? What can you do if you have not understood the text as you read it?

- Back up and read some/all parts again (complex texts often require multiple reads)
- Continue reading and see if this “fills in a few blanks” for you. Pay particular attention to the first and last sentences of all paragraphs as this should give you the topic and summarize the topic.
- Use a dictionary to help with words for which the meaning may be unclear
- Read parts/all out loud to yourself or someone else
- Discuss the text with someone else who has knowledge of it
- Research what others have said about the piece

After Reading Strategies:

- See if you can give the main idea, theme, or purpose of the piece. If you cannot do this, read it again for clarity and a better understanding.
- Remember that sometimes there are smaller ideas that make up the larger theme or message.
- Consider evidence from the text that supports your ideas.
- Review any parts that may not make sense to you.
- Scan and re-read for specific information to answer any specific questions you are asked to answer.