

Before-Reading Strategies

Strategy	Definition
Brainstorming	Brainstorming is a group process for generating questions, ideas, and examples, and is used to illustrate, expand, or explore a central idea or topic. Brainstorming involves students' sharing whatever material comes to mind and recording every idea, without making judgements about the material being generated.
Classifying	Classifying is a form of thinking in which established or student-generated criteria are used to sort data into identified sets, groups, or patterns. It involves collecting, organizing, displaying, and interpreting data to solve problems, then making decisions and predictions based on the data.
Concept mapping	Concept mapping is a visual strategy often used to teach scientific processes. It shows various relationships among concepts and indicates the order and sequence of the concepts. It is useful as an organizer to identify the key concepts presented in a text.
Graphing	Graphing is a visual tool for problem solving that involves describing and interpreting the world by using numbers, and by representing these understandings in a variety of visual formats (for instance, with circle, bar, or line graphs). It involves collecting, organizing, displaying, and interpreting data, and requires making decisions and predictions based on the data.
Story mapping	A story map is a visual tool that allows students to record their plan for writing through words and illustrations.
Mind mapping	A mind map is a visual note-making strategy that allows students to sketch a central idea about their topic and then create tree-like branches of additional information around the central idea.
Oral explanation	Oral explanation describes a process in which students talk to share their understanding and justify their reasoning. Students may use oral explanation to clarify their thinking and to become aware of what they know and do not know.
Problem posing	Problem posing is a component of problem solving, whereby students and teachers apply critical and creative skills to define, identify, and develop new problems that challenge the thinking of others. Effective problem posing encourages divergent thinking and a variety of solutions, answers, and processes.
Using graphic organizers	Graphic organizers help the learner to organize information and make connections. At a more challenging level, they can be used to create frameworks for relationships between concepts.

Definitions adapted from *The Ontario Curriculum Unit Planner; Assessment Strategies Companion*
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