

Cubing

Major Focus: Comprehension

Grade Level: First –college level

Rationale

Cubing is a strategy designed to prepare students in reading and writing. In writing, it can be used as a pre-writing activity to stimulate students' thinking about a topic. In reading, cubing can be used to strengthen students' comprehension of a topic or concept and help expand students' understanding of a topic, concept, character and/or text from various perspectives.

Six Points of View

This strategy allows students to explore a topic from six different points of view. The name cube comes from the fact that cubes have six sides and students explore a topic from the following perspectives:

Describe it: How would you describe this topic/person/issue? Describe key points/attributes like size, shapes and colors.

Compare it: What is it similar to?

Associate it: What does it make you think of? How does this topic connect?

Analyze it: Tell how it is made or what it is composed of. How would you break the topic into smaller parts?

Apply it: What can you do with it? How is it used?

Argue for or against it: Take a stand and list reasons for supporting or not supporting it.

I am for this because....

I am not for this because....

I agree because....

I disagree because....

How to Use It:

- Select a topic to be cubed. This is a good end activity with a unit for the students. Students need to be familiar with the topic prior to this activity.
- Next, divide students into six small groups; one perspective for each student in the group.
- Each group of students brainstorms ideas about the topic from their assigned perspective.
- Following discussion and brainstorming, each group chooses a point and write a paragraph exploring that perspective.
- Each group read their paragraph aloud to the class and make revisions if needed.
- Each paragraph is then posted in the classroom on the side of a cardboard cube.