

Three-Level Guide

Description: A comprehension strategy which supports students to read the text closely by providing a clear purpose and direction for reading. Uses declarative statements which can spring discussions and conversations about the content.

Focus Group: Elementary- Adult

Major Focus: Comprehension

Procedure:

Three Levels:

1. Literal recognition- reading the lines
2. Interpretation- reading between the lines
3. Application- reading beyond the lines

Select a text which:

1. Deals with issues which challenge students beyond the literal level
2. Reflects the main ideas and concepts covered in the unit of work
3. Uses rich language

Creating a Three Level Guide

1. Begin construction of the guide at level 2, the interpretive level.
 - Ask: "What does the author mean?"
 - Write down in your own words all inferences that make sense to you and that fit your content objectives. Statement should be simply and clearly written.
2. Search the text for the proposition and explicit pieces of information needed to support the inferences you have chosen for level 2.
 - Put these into statement form (this is level 1).
3. Decide whether you want to add a distractor or two to levels 1 and 2.
 - Maintains an active response to the information search.
4. Develop statements for level 3, the applied level.
 - Help students connect prior knowledge to what they read.
5. Be flexible and adaptive
 - Develop a format that will appeal to you and your students.

Adapted from Content Area Reading: Literacy and Learning Across the Curriculum by Richard T. and Joanne L. Vacca