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“Observing and understanding are two different things.”
-Mary Pearson

Reading Comprehension Part 1

Reading comprehension is a truly vital skill in everything we do. Simply reading a passage is not enough. We must understand and apply what we are reading. This week’s FACS Focus will be part one of a two part series on reading comprehension techniques. While you have probably heard of some of these techniques, I would encourage you to look at them in a new light as they are tried and true methods for helping students understand as they read.

Every time we read something, a picture is placed in our mind. Ideally this picture is organized and represents well what we are actually reading. However, this is not always the case for students who struggle with reading comprehension. This week will focus on the use of graphic organizers.

Storyboard. Have students create a flow chart of what

happens and the details associated with it to keep events organized. This could be used in studying effects of vitamins and minerals or the stages of prenatal development.

Venn Diagram. This tried and true method allows students to compare and contrast. To encourage focused thought, you may want to include categories or specific comparisons you want students to grasp on to. These could be written on the outside of the diagram or as part of the instructions. This could be used for comparing parenting styles, child development theorists, or textile qualities.

Word Tournament. As students read, have them choose the most important word from the passage. Then, using think-pair-share, have students debate the merit of their “most important word” through a



Mission

Nebraska Family and Consumer Sciences integrates family and career readiness with technical skill instruction within a critical science perspective. As a result, our students are empowered to navigate the challenges of living and working in diverse communities, while striving for a high quality of life.

tournament bracket. This requires students to identify their important word as well as be able to explain its importance to others.

For more ideas and forms for various graphic organizers visit educationoasis.com or eduplace.com.

Call to Action

Take some time to familiarize yourself with a new form of graphic organizer.

Once a student understands how to use it best, you can utilize it as a new tool. Be sure to share the great things you’re doing with other teachers in your school as well!

CSO Spotlight

your students be successful!

FCCLA

STAR Events are underway at this point. To make sure your students are successful, make copies of all materials they will need including their event guidelines, rubrics, and key term glossary.

Check out the 2014-15 National Competitive Events Guide and the 2014-15 Nebraska STAR Events Manual to gain valuable tips on helping

Be sure to connect with your District STAR Coordinator for information on due dates and registration. See the *Red Handbook* for information on who your STAR Coordinator is this year.